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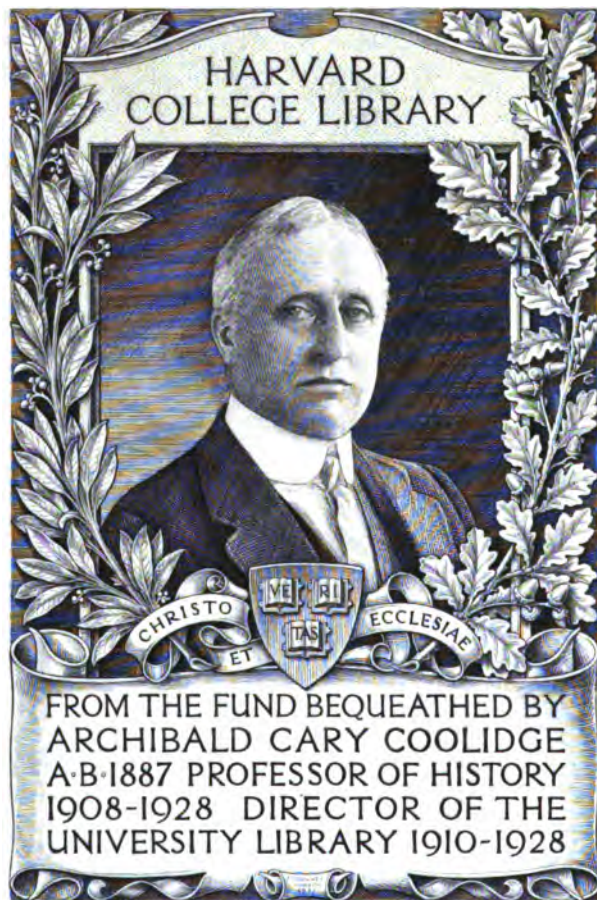
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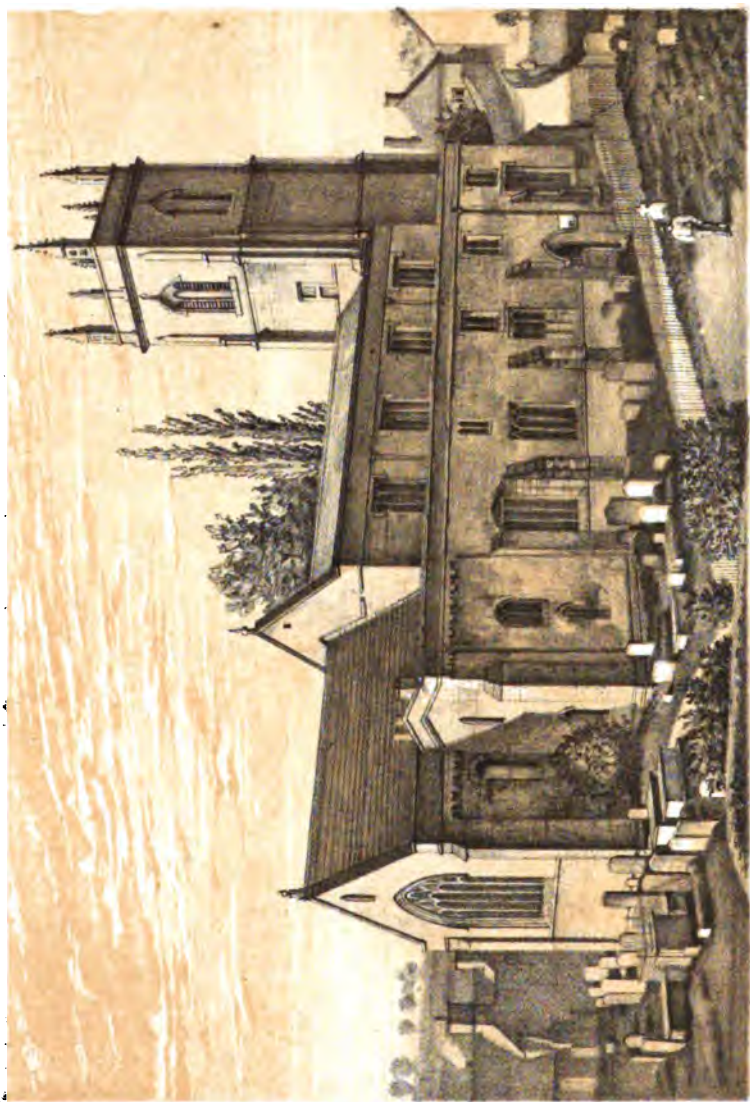
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BLOCKLEY CHURCH, 1871.

THE
HISTORY OF BLOCKLEY

IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

COMPILED

BY

THE REV. ALFRED J. SODEN,

CURATE OF BLOCKLEY,

FORMERLY CURATE OF KINGS NORTON.

COVENTRY:

PRINTED, FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY, BY J. W. PARBURY, WEST ORCHARD.
1875.

Bn 5167.167
✓



TO THE

**RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,
HENRY,**

BY DIVINE PERMISSION,

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER,

THIS WORK IS, (WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S SANCTION)

GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS OBEDIENT AND OBLIGED SERVANT

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

NEARLY 50 years ago, the Rev. W. T. EYRE, who was then Curate of this parish, published a book called the "Blockley Guide," in which were many interesting particulars concerning the history &c. of this ancient and once important parish. As only a few copies were printed, it was not generally known even within the parochial limits. Some time ago I was requested to prepare a work of a similar kind, with a view to a more extended circulation, and the present volume is the result of compliance with that request,—a result which I hope will not be regarded with disfavour. It becomes me now to acknowledge my obligations (and they are many) to those who have so materially assisted me in the undertaking. For the facility with which I have been enabled to refer to "Nash's History of Worcestershire," and "Camden's Britannia," (both valuable and expensive works) I am indebted to the great kindness of Lord Northwick, who, for a lengthened period, allowed me the loan of them from his Lordship's library at Northwick. To the Rev. Henry Bromfield, Vicar of Blockley, with whom it has been my privilege to work harmoniously for nearly nine years, I owe much for information given me during the progress of this work, and for the interest he has shewn in desiring its success. I am also under obligations to A. C. Hooper, Esq. Secretary to the Bishop of Worcester, for permitting me to consult certain deeds and documents in the Registry of the Diocese. With regard to the architectural descriptions in the work, I am indebted to Mr. W. G. Fretton, of Coventry, a member of several antiquarian Societies, in whose ability I have the greatest confidence. He has also taken for me several of the sketches, and furnished me with extracts from authors, to whose works I might otherwise have had difficulty in obtaining access. To enumerate all those who have in one way or another contributed towards the completion of the book would lengthen out this preface beyond its proper limits. I can only

beg them to believe that I am not unmindful of their valuable assistance, and to accept my sincere thanks. Although the preparation of this work has been to me a source of pleasure, at the same time it has involved a considerable amount of labour and research, which however will be amply rewarded, if the result should be the means of affording a few hours' interesting perusal to those who have encouraged me by becoming subscribers, and of handing down to those who come after us, a faithful record concerning the past and present of Blockley.

A.J.S.

June, 1875.

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HISTORY OF BLOCKLEY.

ADDENDUM.

Copy of Certificates found in the Record Office, referring to the Endowment of the Chantry in Blockley Church, (see page 34).

*Chantry Certificate, cos. Worcester & Hereford, Roll 25
Commission dated 14 Feby, 37. Henry VIII.*

The Counties of Worcett^r & Herefford

The Deanrie of Blockeley

The Chaunterie of owre lady Wythin the parishe Churche of Blockeley
Benedict Pastone somtyme parson of Blokeley & Raffe of Bracketon
p'ste Ded ordeyne & ffounde the said Chaunt'ie in honor of o^re lady for
ever And gave vnto A p'ste to mynnyster And say masse ther certeyne
landes And Tenementes the kynges licence ffirste obtayned After that
because the said lande geven by the ffirst ffounders were not sufficient for
the ffyndyng of A p'st, John of Blockeley Clerke gave other lande to the
same After the kyngs licence obtayned As by his Dede Dated the mundaye
After th assumpc of owre lady Anno Dñi M^cCCClvj^{to} may Appeire

The yerely valew Accordyng to the }
booke of Tenthis } s a
Cx xj ob

The yerely valew Accordyng to this Survey^{li s a} vij xvj vj

wherof In
Rent^s Resolutes paid vnto the Bisshoppe of Worc^r yerely xiiij^s viij^d Tenthis
payable yerely vnto the Kyng^e mai^{tye} xj^s j^d ob^{_____} xxiiij^s x ob.
The Clere yerely valew^{li s a} vj xj viij ob

Wiche byn Employed to the mayntenaunce of A p'ste ther And the Repa-
racons of the houses belongyng to the same Accordyng to the ffound'

The said Chaunt'ie is Wythin the p'ishe Churche of Blokeley And
no p'ishe Churche of yt selfe

The valew of thornam^{te} Accordy'g to an Inventorie xxxiiij^s viij^d

Ther were no other lande ne proffyttes belongyng to the said Chaun-
t'ie syns the said iiij Daye of februarye [27 Henry VIII].

HISTORY OF BLOCKLEY.

Chantry Certificate co. Worcester. Roll 60

Commission dated 14 Feby 2 Edward VI

The Countie of Worcettour

The paryshe of Blockley wherein bee of houselyng people y^e number
of fowre hundreth

The Chaunterye of our lady within the paryshe Church there

Wyllyam Cave Incumbent of the age of lxiij yeres competently
learnyd and of honeste conversacon

The yerely valewe of the lande and teñtes belongyng to the said
chaunt'y as apperyth ^{li}ix ^sij ^dvj

wherof

In repryses out of the same yerely ^sxvij ^dviiij

Landes solde _____ None

And so rem^a. clere ^{li}viiij ^siiij ^dx

Plate	...	...	v ounz di*
Goodes	...	...	^s iiij ^d iiij
Prechers	...	...	None
Scoole	...	...	None
To the poore	...	...	n ^l †

Chantry Certificate, co. Worc. Roll 61 (not dated.)

The County of Worcester

Edw. VI.

The Deanry of Blockley

The parishe of Blockley wherin be of houselyng people the number
of iiij^o

There is one Chauntry within the said parishe Church y^e Incumb^t
wherof

Will^m Cave the late Incumbent there hath yerely clere y^e xth
deducted ^{li}vj ^sxj ^dviiij

Prechers ... None

Scole masters None

To the poore n^l

* Five-and-half ounces. † Nil.

ERRATA

Page 125, line 6, add £1-3-6 to money column.

„ „ „ 20 for *Aparite* read *Aparitor*.

HISTORY OF BLOCKLEY.

THIS ancient and picturesque parish forms a portion of the County of Worcester, and was anciently called Blockelet or Blockel. In Domesday Book it is called Blockelei. Its length from E. to W. is about seven miles, and breadth about four miles. Its position is one of entire isolation from its county, being totally insulated by parishes in the Counties of Gloucester and Warwick.

Situation.

From "Hearne's Antiquarian Discourses" we find that the original division of counties, and particularly the arbitrary detachment of certain parishes from the main district, is accounted for by their having formerly been parcels of some great seigniorship belonging to Baronies, Bishoprics, or Abbeys.¹ This explains the isolated position of this parish, which from time immemorial was a manorial appendage to the Bishops of Worcester.² It is bounded by Chipping Campden and Ebrington,³ (or, as it is called in Camden's *Brittania*, *Ebburton*,) in the County of Gloucester; Stretton-upon-Fosse, in the County of Warwick; Toddensham, Lemington, Moreton-in-Marsh, Batsford, and Bourton-on-the-Hill, also in the County of Gloucester. A portion of the parish constitutes a *township*, which includes the village of Blockley, Hither Upton Wold, Far Upton Wold, and that part of Draycott called Oldborough.

From an entry made in one of the parish books it seems that the old custom existed here of "beating the bounds" on Ascension Day. How long the custom has been discontinued I am not able to say; but the last recorded occasion of the custom being kept up was in the year 1720.

Beating the
Bounds.

¹ Hearne's Antiquarian Discourses.

² Bigland's Collections.

³ This is the place where Lord Chancellor Fortescue is buried, and from whence Earl Fortescue derives his second title of Viscount Ebrington.

"26 May, A.D. 1720, being Ascension Day, a procession was made abt^t y^e outbounds of y^e parish according to y^e ancient costum beginning at y^e gate leading to Broad Campden Hill and so up abt^t y^e Upton Olds and wthout y^e Hedge abt^t Burton Wood to the stile out of Hailstone into y^e Wood so to Burton Hill & between Battsford & Dorn as far as Four Shire Stone and then back between Lemington & Dorn & Aston & between Lemington & Ditchford & between Stretton & Ditchford & between Charingworth & Paxf^d & between Ebrington & Paxf^d & between Broad Campden & Northw^k, y^e principal persons of y^e s^d parish wth y^e Minister & Churchwardens attending y^e same.

ER: SAUNDERS, VICAR."

Oswaldslow
Hundred.

Blockley is situate in the hundred of Oswaldslow, which consisted of three divisions, upper, middle, and lower. It was formed of townships and lands scattered throughout the county, and in extent included 300 hides¹ of land.² This hundred was granted, about A.D. 964, by King Edgar to Oswald, then Bishop of Worcester (afterwards Archbishop of York),³ from whom it derives its name of Oswaldslow.⁴ The grant was made with many rights and liberties, which were confirmed to the Bishop by Henry I. and II., and augmented by Henry III. on account of his father, King John, being buried at Worcester. Seven court leets belonged to the hundred, held on great commons, in fields, or on hills under trees. This hundred seems to have been known also as Oswald's Law, (i.e.) Oswald's district or jurisdiction.⁵

Extent.

The parish of Blockley formerly comprised the hamlets of Northwick, Dorn, Ditchford, Paxford, Aston, and Draycott; but in the year 1847 Aston and Dorn were constituted a separate ecclesiastical district, though for rating purposes they still form part of the parish. Blockley is about 11 miles

1 A hide of land was esteemed to contain 100 acres, and sometimes 120; but both differed according to the lightness or stiffness of the soil, according as a plough might despatch more or less within a year. Some hides would even reach 240 acres. The hide was the measure of land in the Confessor's reign; the carucate that to which it was reduced by the Conqueror's new Standard. (Introduction to Domesday Book for the County of Warwick, translated by William Reader.)

2 38 of those hides were in Blockley and 25 in Northwick.

3 Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*.

4 Naah's History of Worcestershire.

5 Camden's *Brittania*.

distant from Evesham; 30 from each of the cathedral cities of Worcester and Gloucester; 86 by road, and $94\frac{1}{2}$ by rail from London.¹ The acreage of the *township* is 2476a. 3r. 36p. There are places in Blockley called Colonel's-piece, Coney-green, Mop-hale, Winter-way, Bull Meadow, Bond's Hill, Shail's Coppice, Shoulder-of-mutton Barn, Carter's Hill, Hailstone, The Cinque Foil, Cherry Orchard, Round Hill, The Downs, The Dingles, The Langet (or Landgate), Mill Close, &c., &c.

There is reason to believe that Blockley must anciently have been a Roman Station from the many relics of antiquity found in the vicinity, especially at Dorn. It is said that urns and other Roman remains have been found on Moor Hill.²

Roman
Station.

The land in the parish is a mixture of arable, meadow, and pasture. The hilly parts, especially those near Bourton-on-the-Hill and Chipping Campden, abound in good stone; of which, one kind is used for building purposes, and the other for dry walling, the sort of fence generally in use on the hills.³

The water is both pure and abundant, coming down from the rocks in copious streams, which even in the driest seasons have never been known to fail.

Springs.

This abundant and never-failing-supply of water is thus referred to by *Drayton*:—

“ And being near of kinne to that most springfull place,
Where, out of Blockley's banks, so many fountains flowe
That cleane throughout his soyle proud Cotswold cannot showe
The like; as though from farre, his long and many hills
There emptied all their vaines wherewith those founts he fills,
Which in the greatest drought so brimfull still doe float,
Sent through the rifted rocks with such an open throat
As though the Cleeves consumed in humour; they alone
So crystalline and cold, as hardneth stick to stone.”⁴

¹ Paddington.

² Antiquities and Folk-lore of Worcestershire, by Allies. I have been unable to ascertain the locality of “Moor Hill.”

³ Nash.

⁴ Drayton's Poems; Poly-olbion, Song XIV.; and see “Dovedale.”



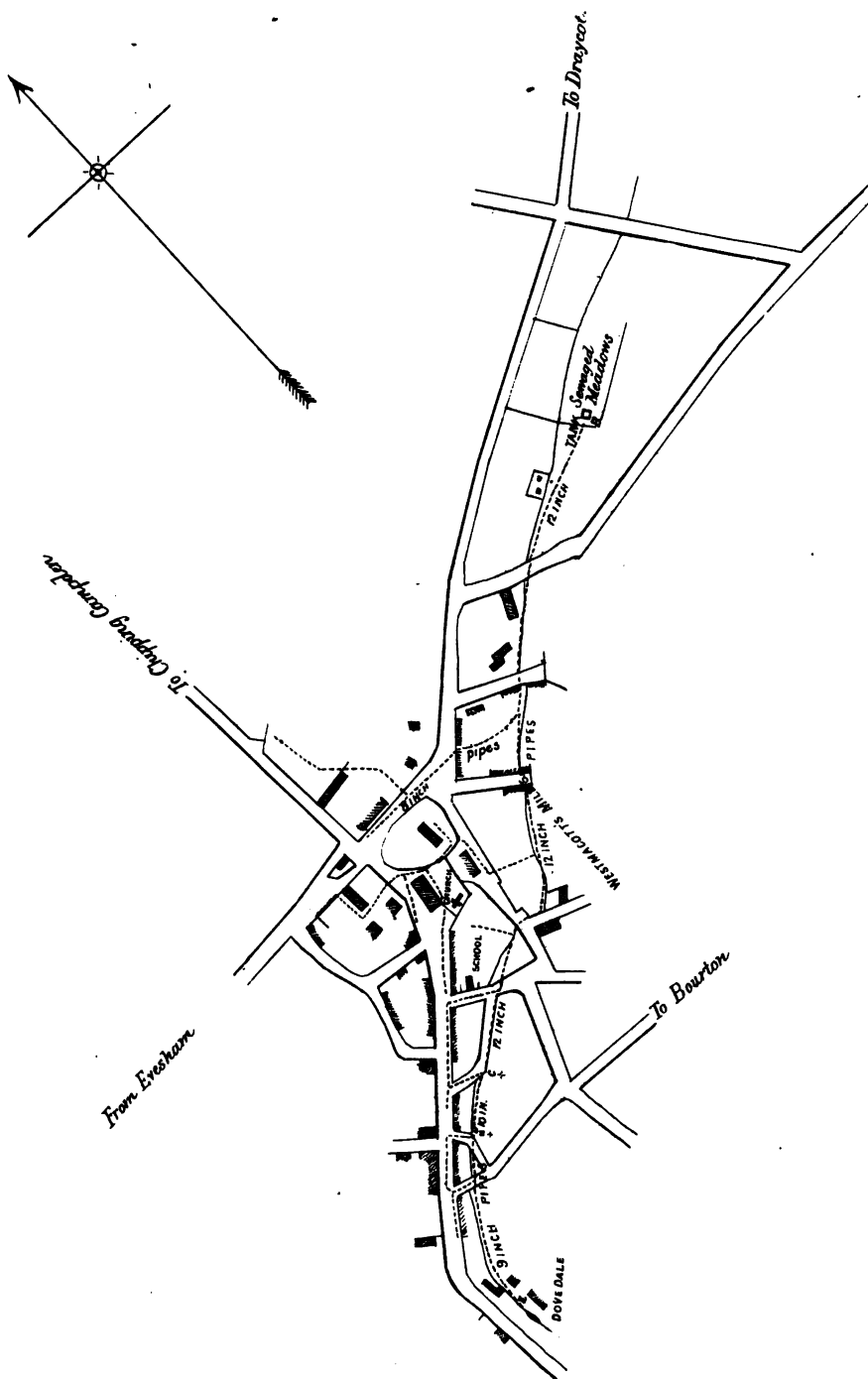
In the village are several public springs, one near the Boys' school (called "the lion") serves the double purpose of a fountain and cattle trough, another near the Post Office, issuing from the low side of the raised pathway, is shown in the above illustration.

Chalybeate
Springs.

Some 24 years ago there were several chalybeate springs here, very strongly impregnated. One of these was at the lower end of Westmacott's lane: of this spring there is now no visible trace, it having been built over. Another was in the Drying yard, near the premises now occupied by Mr. Edwin Smith. The nature of the strata in several parts near this spot was such as to give rise to the impression that coal might be found, and borings were accordingly made. Both in the Drying yard, and in Bull Meadow near Pasture lane, traces of coal were found, but the result was not such as to justify persistence in the work. At the back of what is called "Bath Orchard," now belonging to Mr. John Herbert, there was a well called "Blind Well;" the medicinal properties of the water being considered to be remedial in cases of weak eyesight. The writer has been informed that persons would come from a considerable distance to fetch water from this well for the purpose of bathing the eyes.

Rivers.

Bigland, in his "Collections," states that Blockley is intersected by the River "*Evenlode*." On referring to the ordnance map, this statement does not appear to be correct; though several of the feeders of the Evenlode rise on the high grounds south of the parish. The stream which intersects Blockley appears to be the Knee Brook, which rises in



Bourton Wood beyond Dove Dale, and flows in a north easterly direction through Blockley; receiving on its left bank, at Bran Mill, a small stream which rises on the high lands at Broad Campden; and after taking in several other tributaries on both banks falls into the Stour, near Burmington. The constant and plentiful supply of water thus flowing through the parish encouraged the erection of Flour and Silk Mills, which latter will be specially noticed when I come to mention the trade of Blockley.

It is most desirable for the health of a parish that it should be provided with an efficient system of drainage. And it must be admitted that for many years the system of drainage at Blockley had not been so efficient as it ought to have been. To this cause may probably be attributed those periodical outbreaks of epidemical disease with which it has been not unfrequently visited, and of which, one of the most severe took place in October, 1854, when 21 deaths occurred from Cholera, 14 of them taking place in one week. On this occasion a public subscription was raised for the relief of the sufferers.

Drainage

But, through the munificence of the present Lord Northwick, the evil arising from defective drainage ought no longer to exist. In the year 1862, his lordship made an offer to the parish to lay down, at his own expense, a main sewer. This liberal offer was gladly accepted. The part of the parish known as the village of Blockley was formed into a special drainage district for the purposes of the "Sewage Utilization Act, 1865," the "Sanitary Act 1866," and the "Sewage Utilization Act 1867." The work was shortly commenced, and completed according to the plan sketched on the opposite page. The length of piping is as follows:— 1477 yards of 12-inch; 398 yards of 10-inch; and 791 yards of 9-inch. On the plan the 12-inch is marked from B to C; the 10-inch from C to D; and the 9-inch from D to E. In addition, the branch sewers consist of 1054 yards of 8-inch piping, and 1658 yards of 6-inch. There are three meadows near Draycott which are irrigated with the sewage by means of a flushing apparatus. The total cost was nearly £1200, the whole of which was borne by Lord Northwick.

The contractor for the work was Mr. Frederick Pace Webb, of Evesham. There are some owners of property who have not taken advantage of Lord Northwick's liberality, by laying on drains from their houses and tenements into the main sewer; and as long as this is the case, the parish is not likely to enjoy that comparative immunity from epidemical outbreaks, which a thoroughly complete system of drainage would probably afford. There is a fact however which deserves to be mentioned here, as it tends to prove that what *has* been done in the way of improved drainage may already have had a beneficial effect as regards the mortality in the parish. In 1870, (before the completion of the works,) the number of burials in the Churchyard amounted to 68, which number was considerably above the average. In 1871 the number fell to 27, considerably under the average; in 1872 it was 32, and in 1873, it was only 24.

It may be that greater caution and prudence on the part of many people have assisted in producing this decline in our annual bill of mortality: but I think we are justified in assuming that it is in no small degree to be attributed to that improvement in the drainage, with which the village has been so liberally provided.

Lighting

The streets are lighted with lamps during the dark winter nights. This was a very necessary improvement, owing to some portions of the foot-way being raised considerably above the road. The lamps are under the control of a committee, and the cost of lighting, &c., (about £20) is provided each year by voluntary subscription.

Roads.

Though the township of Blockley is not actually situated on either of the main lines of road running through Worcestershire, two important roads cross the parish, one of these, the London and Worcester, enters the parish on its southern boundary a little west of Bourton wood, and taking a north-western direction through Upton Wold, leaves the parish near the 87th milestone. The Roman Fosse Way crosses the south-eastern extremity of the parish at Dorn, Aston Magna, and Ditchford: parallel with this road, near Dorn, and close by it runs the Stratford and Moreton Tram-road, one of the earliest attempts in the movement, which has since developed itself into the present Railway system.

Good cross roads intersect the parish in all directions and provide means of communication with the neighbouring towns and villages. One of these leaves Blockley on the north, branching westward by the Holt into the Worcester turnpike; another takes a north-eastern direction by Blockley Railway Station, Paxford, &c.; this road is beautified by a goodly number of fine elms on each side.

Proceeding southward are several roads which unite in one leading into the Bourton road, and thence eastward to Moreton-in-the-Marsh. One of these, a steep lane known as Hobbs' lane, now slightly diverted where it crosses the brook, formerly wound round the side of the hill alongside of Bath orchard; traces of this road yet remain. Good roads lead to Draycott, Ditchford, and Aston Magna, as also through Batsford to Moreton-in-the-Marsh.

I may here mention another costly and valuable improvement lately effected through the munificence of Lord Northwick. Every one will remember the deep valley between the two steep hills of Dark-lane and Northcombe-bank, on the upper road leading from Blockley to Campden. The steepness of these two hills rendered *heavy* traffic impossible; and except by foot passengers, the road was not very generally used. Lord Northwick (whose property is adjacent) entered into a contract with Mr. F. P. Webb, of Evesham, for lowering the hills and raising the valley. This was carried out at a cost of about £1,700 to Lord Northwick, and the road is now rendered more safe and easy for general use.

Northcombe
Viaduct.

Until about the year 1850 this was a place difficult of access, there being no railway within 30 miles. But in that year a line was brought by the West Midland Railway Company within two miles of the village. The opening of the line was celebrated at Blockley, on June 16th, 1853, when about 2,000 people were hospitably entertained, the cost being defrayed by public subscription. The line is now worked by the Great Western Railway Company; and although it is to be regretted that it was not brought nearer to the village, still, when we consider our former state of inaccessibility, we had better "rest and be thankful" for our present advantages. For some years past it has been in contemplation to construct the "Blockley

Railway

and Banbury Railway," and notice of application to Parliament for the purpose was given in session 1873. This intended railway was to commence "in the parish of Blockley, by a junction with the Great Western Railway, at or near the south-eastern end of the platform at the Blockley passenger station of that railway, and terminate in the parish of Wackworth, in the County of Northampton, by a junction with the Banbury Branch of the Buckinghamshire Railway of the London and North Western Railway Company," and thence to Banbury. Should this Railway be constructed, it will pass through or near Blockley, Paxford, Draycott, Ditchford, Aston Magna, and Tidmington, in the County of Worcester; besides parishes in the Counties of Gloucester, Warwick, Oxford, and Northampton.

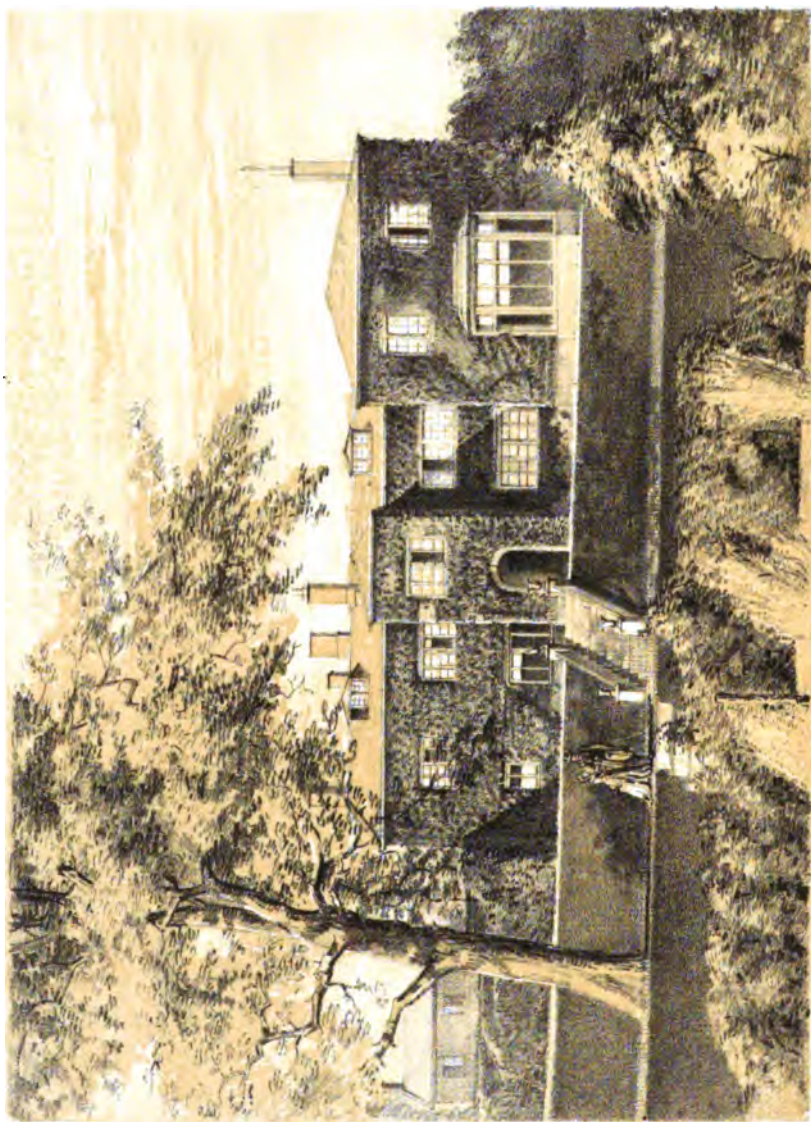
Fairs. Although no fairs are now held here, it may not be uninteresting, in order to show the ancient importance of Blockley to mention those of which we can find any record.

A.D. 1240. The earliest record that I find of any fair being held at Blockley is in the year 1240, mentioned in "Thomas's Survey of the Cathedral Church of Worcester" and also in "Wharton's Anglia Sacra." In that year Walter de Cantelupe, then Bishop of Worcester obtained license of the King to hold a fair at Blockley for 5 days.

A.D. 1270. Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, obtained a grant from the King (54 Hen. III.) to keep a fair at Blockley for six days, viz: three days before the eve of St. Michael, on the eve, on the feast of St. Michael, and on the day following. The deed granting the license, was witnessed by Walter, Archbishop of York; Nicholas, Bishop of Winchester; Roger, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; John de Warren, Earl of Surrey; William de Valence, the King's brother; Humfrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford; Philip Basset, and Robert Walleran.¹

A.D. 1286. The Bishops of Worcester had held a fair at Blockley time out of mind, on the eve, and the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, and six days after, in all eight days. This fair at the request of Bishop Godfrey was

1. "Nash's History of Worcestershire," and "Thomas's Survey."



BLOCKLEY VICARAGE.

enlarged to sixteen days by King Edward I. by a grant dated at Westminster, Feb. 15th, in the fourteenth year of his reign, A.D. 1286. It was witnessed by Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chancellor; Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; John de Warren, Earl of Surrey; William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and others. In "Nash's History of Worcestershire," and in "Bigland's Collections," there is mention of two annual fairs, one on the Tuesday after Easter week; and the other on the 10th of October. These two were held up to about the last forty years, but since that time they have gradually been given up in favour of better attended and more distant ones, which by means of the railway are now placed within easy reach.

In the year 1741, the parish officers, having first obtained the consent of the parish, applied Mary Carter's gift of £100, (the interest of which forms a portion of the boys' school endowments,) in the erection of a building adjoining the main entrance to the vicarage, to be used as a workhouse for the poor of the parish; the parish officers agreeing to pay the yearly interest for the purpose directed by Mary Carter. This building continued to be used as the workhouse until the establishment of the present poor law system, when Blockley became included in the district which forms the Shipston-on-Stour poor law union. The Blockley workhouse was then converted into six cottages, which are still known by the name of the "Workhouse buildings." The rents of these six cottages (amounting to £20. 15. 0.) are paid by the tenants to the churchwardens, and out of these rents the sum of £5. is paid yearly to the vicar, as trustee, by way of interest for the £100 principal which was applied in erecting the building, the balance being devoted towards the necessary repairs and expenses of the parish church. It may be interesting to add, for the sake of comparison, that a poor's rate at sixpence in the pound, produced in 1814 the sum of £184, in the following proportions:

The Old
Workhouse
A.D. 1741.

Blockley.....	£56	10	6	Draycott.....	£12	11	4
Northwick..	24	2	1	Ditchford...	26	7	10
Aston	28	15	3	Dorn	13	19	4
Paxford.....	21	19	1				
					£184	5	5

a similar rate will now produce about £302.

Friendly
Societies.

Although the Blockley Victoria Friendly Society is no longer in existence, I think it right to place upon record some account of it, and the causes which led to its dissolution in 1872.

The society was established in 1837, and its rules were duly certified by the then Registrar of Friendly Societies. It consisted of honorary and ordinary members, the former paying not less than £1 a year, and the latter, an entrance fee according to age, and four shillings per quarter. In consideration of this payment, ordinary members were entitled to receive six shillings weekly during sickness, and at death the widow received £4, an allowance of £2 being also made for funeral expenses.

For many years this Society continued in a flourishing state, it being largely supported by honorary donations. The surplus funds became so considerable that they were invested in the purchase of the "Crown Inn," Blockley, to which premises was subsequently added a large room for club purposes, the cost of erection being also provided out of the surplus funds. The management of the affairs of the club seems to have been carried on in a not very business-like manner; no record having been kept of the society's proceedings at the various meetings. At the time of its establishment, the society was well supported by both classes of members, but at its "*dis-establishment*" it numbered only fifty ordinary members. It is quite clear that this society was never established upon a safe basis; and I believe it has been proved beyond doubt that societies with such a basis cannot last longer than fifty years. In the course of time, pecuniary difficulties arose, each year the balance being against the society, and each year increasing in amount; till in September, 1870, a committee was appointed to consider the best way of getting rid of these pecuniary difficulties. This committee reported that there were three causes which mainly contributed to the decline of the society. 1st.—Not having at the commencement fixed the payments of the ordinary members upon a graduated scale according to the age of each member at entrance. 2nd.—Too much reliance upon *honorary* subscriptions. 3rd.—Having placed no limit as to the duration of the full sick pay allowance; and there being no power under the rules to make any reduction in the amount allowed. At this time the expenditure was about £150, and the income £102. To make up the

deficiency, money had to be borrowed from time to time from the Bank. Suggestions (which I need not give in detail) were accordingly made for reducing the payments to sick members, and to those receiving the old age allowance; and for increasing the amount of honorary subscriptions. The Registrar of friendly societies, however, gave it as his opinion, that no reductions could be made applicable to the cases of members actually in receipt of allowance *without their consent*; and this consent, they, when appealed to, with one exception, declined to give. The Registrar was therefore appealed to, and he stated that upon a formal application being made to him, signed by not less than five-eighths of the members, he had the power to investigate the condition of the club, and to decide as to the propriety of its dissolution. This application was accordingly made, stating also the grounds upon which it was believed that the funds were insufficient to meet the demands made upon them. Upon investigation the Registrar found the society to be in an insolvent condition, awarded that it be dissolved, its property converted into money, and the proceeds appropriated to the members in the manner to be set forth by him in a supplementary award. On the 7th. of February, 1872, the "Crown Inn," was sold by public auction, and was purchased by Mr. Henry Keeble, of London, at the sum of £920. To be added to this amount, was a balance of *borrowed* money in hand, half a year's rent due at Lady Day, and a few arrears of subscriptions, by which items the amount became raised to £1051. 0s. 8d. From this deductions had to be made amounting to £257. 1s. 1d. for legal and Auctioneer's expenses, and for the money borrowed from the Bank, which reduced the total sum for division among the members to £793 19s. 7d. This amount the Registrar ordered to be appropriated and divided in the manner set forth in the schedule annexed to his supplementary award, dated April 3rd, 1872. This award has been placed in the parish chest. A copy of it (with explanations of the amounts awarded,) was inserted in the Blockley Parish Magazine for May, 1872.

January 11th,
1872.

This Club is one of the oldest in the neighbourhood, and was established in the year 1763. Its full-pay allowance is six shillings per week during sickness; the half-pay allowance is three shillings and sixpence per

The Blockley
Old Benefit
Society.

week. At the death of a member, it makes a grant of £5 to the widow or other personal representatives. Its income is derived from the payments of the ordinary members, (1s. 4d, per month) which in 1873, amounted to £96 8s. 8d.; honorary subscriptions, amounting in 1873 to £26 6s. 7d.; and the interest arising from £275, invested in Great Western Railway $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Debenture Stock, in the names of the Rev. H. Bromfield, Mr. Charles Peyton Smith, and Mr. John Herbert.

The amount paid to sick members (including grants on death,) was in 1871, £124 11s. 5d.; in 1872, £111 3s. 4d.; in 1873, £123 7s. 11d.

The annual meeting of members is held on the Wednesday in Whitsun week at the Bell Inn, whence the members are required by the Rules to walk in procession to the parish church to attend divine service. The annual feast is afterwards held at the Inn, each ordinary member paying three shillings towards the expenses. This payment however does not cover the total cost of the feast, the deficiency having to come out of the funds of the Society. I think that, having regard to the state of the funds, it should be a matter for consideration, whether they should be taxed at all with any payment for such a purpose. There is no doubt that if the society were enrolled, the payment out of the funds of any sum towards the feast expenses, would be considered as illegal. So long as such a payment is made out of the *funds which ought to be solely applied in aid of the purposes for which the society was established*—so long will it be used as an argument against supporting a society, whose funds are yearly taxed with an illegal payment. With careful judgment on the part of the managers, and perhaps, a little self-denial on the part of the members, there is no reason why this society should not be able to survive those difficulties and changes, which in some instances, have proved too much for similarly established institutions. The present number of ordinary members is 92, and of honorary members 25. In the year 1845 there were 166 ordinary members.

Provident
Medical
Institution.

This Institution was started some years ago by a former resident medical officer, but has been re-modelled. Its present terms of membership are contained in the following rule:—No domestic servant receiving more than £8. annual wages; nor any labourer receiving more than 21s. per week,

average wages, (throughout the year) or whose earnings or income, together with those of the children residing with them, exceed 30s. per week, average wages (throughout the year) shall be permitted to be a member. All families whose income is within the above limit, shall pay 12s. per year, payable quarterly in advance: and single members, 4s. 6d. per annum, on the same terms." For the above payments, members receive medical advice and medicines, providing their own bottles, leeches, and bandages. If able, they are to attend at the Surgery by 10. a.m.; if unable, to be visited at their homes, if resident within three quarters of a mile of Blockley Church. Beyond that distance an extra charge is made.

Of these valuable parochial institutions there are two, one for women, *Clothing Clubs*, and one for school children and other young people. The payments are made weekly, and are limited to 4d. per week. The amounts received each week are invested in the Post Office Savings Bank, in the name of the Vicar as Trustee. At the end of the club year, every depositor receives a ticket, on which is stated the amount of the year's deposit, to which a small bonus is added by the Vicar, (at his own expense) if the payments have been regularly kept up. On presenting the ticket at any of the local shops, the depositor can obtain clothing materials to the amount stated. There is no doubt that by such parochial agencies as these, provident habits are encouraged, and in the end much money is saved, which might otherwise have been wasted or ill-spent. In the women's club the total amount deposited for 1871 was £33 7s. 2d., in 1872, £40 8s. 1d. In the childrens' club for 12 months (1871-2) the sum deposited was £56 2s., for 12 months (1872-3) £56 4s. 4d.

The post office is opened on week days, from the 15th of February to the 15th of November at 7 a.m., and during the remaining months at 7.30 a.m.; it is closed at 8 p.m.—on Sundays it is open from 7 a.m., till 10 a.m. There are two morning deliveries on week days, and one on Sunday. Letters are despatched for the north at 3.55 p.m., and for London, &c. &c., at 6.35 p.m. Post Office,
and
Stamp Office.

Money orders are issued and paid from 9 a.m., till 6 p.m.; and on *Money Orders*. Saturdays till 8 p.m.



**Post Office
Savings
Bank.**

This is open from 9 a.m., till 6 p.m.—Deposits received from one shilling and upwards; but not more than £30 can be deposited in any one year, or more than £150 in the whole.

**Government
Insurances
and
Annuities.**

The Postmaster General is empowered, under the Act 27 and 28. Victoria, cap. 43, to insure the lives of persons of either sex, between the ages of 16 and 60, for not less than £20, or more than £100. He is also empowered under the same Act to grant immediate or deferred annuities of not more than £50 on the lives of persons of either sex, and of the age of 10 years and upwards.

**Inland
Revenue
Licenses.**

These are also granted at the Post office. Meetings of the Commissioners are held at Blockley. The Commissioners for this District are the Rev. H. Bromfield, Vicar; Mr. Charles Edwin Smith; Mr. James Slatter, (Paxford), and Mr. John Scovell, (Batsford).

Post Mistress:—Mrs. Bearcroft.

Telegraph.

A Government Telegraph office was opened at the post office on Oct. 18th, 1871. The number of messages received and despatched from that date to Oct. 18th, 1873, is 1072, viz:—in the first year 510, and in the second 562.

Telegraphist:—Miss Bearcroft.

TRADE OF BLOCKLEY.

That branch of the silk trade which is called "throwing," (which consists in cleaning and otherwise preparing the silk when in its raw state for the dyer and the weaver) has been carried on in Blockley for a considerable period. The first silk mill was built here by Mr. Henry Whatcott, about the year 1700. There being always a plentiful supply of water others were soon erected; and in the year 1825, there were no less than 8 in full operation, all worked by water power. At these mills regular employment was found for the women and children of the township and neighbourhood. The silk throwing trade of Blockley is very much dependent upon the ribbon trade of the city of Coventry, several of the throwsters here throwing for Coventry Manufacturers. The necessary consequence of this close connection is, that any serious decline in the ribbon trade *there*, materially affects the silk throwing *here*. This was too sadly verified when the Commercial Treaty between France and England was entered into at the beginning of the year 1860. This treaty was to continue for a period of 10 years certain; after which time either of the contracting parties might terminate it by giving one year's notice. Early in the year 1872, this notice was given by France. Previously to the passing of this Treaty in 1860, the importation into this country of foreign ribbons was liable to a protective duty of 30 per cent. Under the provisions of the Treaty, this duty was abolished, and foreign ribbons were admitted into England duty free; while France and other countries still maintained high protective duties for themselves on the admission of similar *British* manufactures. Now in speaking of this Treaty it is not for me (in a work of this kind) to regard it from a political point of view. My only desire is to state *facts* which cannot be disproved, but which, were I to attempt to account for, would necessarily involve me in a political contention. Being at the time closely connected with the city of Coventry, I am able to state that no sooner did the French Treaty come into operation, than the ribbon trade of Coventry became thoroughly paralysed; and in a short time about two thirds of the manufacturers were either crushed out, driven out, or ruined; hundreds of houses became tenantless, the tenants being compelled either to migrate or emigrate in order to obtain a living. Pauperism prevailed so

The Silk Trade
of Blockley
and its
Decline.

extensively, that an appeal was made to the country for funds with which to alleviate the distress. No doubt this sad state of things had been also urged forward, both by *change of fashion*, (ribbons having then considerably ceased to be worn) and also by that evil system of "*strikes*," which in the end, frequently prove so injurious to the interests of the operative classes. Such was the state of Coventry. The misfortunes of Coventry very soon affected Blockley; and the majority of the silk-throwing mills here were ultimately closed, leaving only two in operation. And at these the hands were employed, more from a considerate feeling on the part of the owners towards the work-people, than on account of any profit that accrued. At times the work was carried on at no inconsiderable loss. At length the trade here became so bad, that a parochial meeting was called on January 15th, 1861, for the purpose of raising money with which to relieve the distress consequent on the closing of the silk mills, and increased also by the then severity of the weather.

Although occasionally the silk trade revived, owing chiefly to an increased demand for ribbons caused by a temporary change of fashion still these revivals were only spasmodic; and the trade never recovered its prosperity till the outbreak of the war between France and Prussia in the summer of 1870. This disastrous war wrought such desolation for France that all her trade was brought to a standstill. During its continuance the ribbon manufacturers of Coventry were once more in the height of prosperity, which proportionably improved the trade at Blockley. In the course of time, however, war ceased; and France again began to recover her former commercial position. The trade in her lately war-distracted provinces began to revive, and the English silk trade to languish. In Coventry and other large towns it very soon again became depressed, and continued so for some time. In Blockley only two mills, (Mr. Charles Edwin Smith's, and Mr. George Stanley's) have been worked lately, employing about 220 hands.

The Collar
Trade.

This trade was first started in Blockley on the 5th March, 1866, by a London firm of collar makers, and it has served to employ many of the people who formerly worked at the silk mills. At first the business was

commenced in a small house, with 10 of Wheeler and Wilson's sewing machines, employing about 30 hands. But finding that there was plenty of unemployed female labour in Blockley, owing to the slackness of the silk trade, the number of machines was increased to 57. This number found employment for about 80 in-door, and 60 out-door hands, the latter being chiefly occupied in making button holes. In connection with shirt collar making there are four different classes of hands, viz:—machine hands, turners, tackers, and button-holers. The number of in-door hands having been so considerably increased, it became necessary to take the adjoining house, in which the work was steadily and improvingly carried on for 3 years. At length the firm resolved to add another branch of work to the above business, viz:—that of front making. This extension of work again necessitated more room; a man cutter being required on the premises. And, at this time, a portion of Mr. G. C. Smith's silk mill being unoccupied, the business was transferred to it; and there it has been carried on ever since very successfully. The whole of the work, from the beginning to the end (except the dressing, which is done at the head factory in London) is carried on here, and is under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Earl.

POPULATION OF BLOCKLEY.

In Nash's history of Worcestershire it is recorded that in the 5th year of Queen Elizabeth (A.D. 1563), Blockley contained 87 *families*. In consequence of the introduction of the silk trade the number of families had in 1757, increased to 172.

The census of Blockley (exclusive of the hamlets) was in 1851, 1861, and 1871 as follows:—

Year.	Inhabited houses.	Uninhabited houses.	Males.	Females.	Total Population.
1851.	374.	8.	861.	948.	1809.
1861.	...	...	878.	977.	1855.
1871.	403.	41.	780.	908.	1688.

THE MANOR OF BLOCKLEY.

The Manor was an appendage to the See of Worcester prior to the Conqueror's Survey.¹ So early as the year 797 the Bishop of Worcester held the Manor of Blockley, which is co-extensive with the parish. No doubt the Bishops continued to hold in their own possession the Manor until the 15th century, when the ancient Manor house (the then episcopal residence) was deserted by them; and at which time probably the Manor was granted in lease to the Childe family who settled at Northwick in 1320, 13th Edward II. From the Childe family it passed by purchase, in the reign of Charles II. (the 17th century) to the family of Rushout, of noble extraction from the Barons de Rushault, in Picardy.² (I presume that Bigland means either that the *lease* of the Manor, *not* the Manor itself, passed by purchase to the Rushout family, or else he refers to the *Manor of Northwick only*, which was included in the bishop's great manor of Blockley, and which, Nash says, was sold by the Childe family to Sir James Rushout in the reign of Charles II. Because, if the *Manor of Blockley* had passed *by purchase* to the Rushout family, the bishops could not have continued to hold courts here as lords of the manor, as they did up to the year 1850, after which they shortly ceased to be lords of the manor, under the provisions of an act of parliament.)

Subjoined is an abstract from the parliamentary survey, entitled, "a Survey of the Manor of Blockley, with its members in the county of Worcester, parcel of the possessions of the late bishops of Worcester, made the 4th day of June in the 23rd year of the reign of Charles now king of England, &c."

Manorial
Custom.

"The custom of the manor of Blockley is, and time out of mind hath been, that the lord for the time being hath usually granted to the copyholders there the customary and copyhold lands for one life in possession and three in reversion. And that the widow of every copyholder dying seized of any copyhold, or customary lands messuages or tenements, shall have and enjoy the same during her life, if so long she keep herself sole and unmar-

1 Bigland's Collections.

2 Bigland.

ried. And that the executors of every tenant, dying seized of any customary lands or tenements, shall have the same for one year according to the time that he dyed which is called the dead's year. And that a heriott is due to the lord upon the death of every copyhold tenant dying seized of a messuage or tenement, viz :—the best beast, or for want hereof, the best good."

"A relieve, viz :—one year chief rent is due to the lord upon the death of every freeholder in this manor."

The boundaries are described in the parliamentary survey as follows: "Beginning at the four shire stone near Moreton Henmarsh, extendeth to Dorne including the same; and from thence to Batsford field, and so along to Campden Ashes, taking in Upton Old within this manor; and thence to Broad Campden field side, so to Everton field side, and then along by Charingworth grounds to Stretton fields, including the two Ditchfords in this manor. And so by Tadmin fields, and to Lemington fields, and from thence to the four-shire stone where it began, including within this circumference these several hamlets following, viz :—Blockley, Northwick, Paxford, Aston, Draycott, the two Ditchfords, Dorne and Upton Wold, all which are parcels of this manor of Blockley, and are in their circumference about twelve miles."

Boundaries
of Manor.

When the lands, &c. of the bishoprick were sold "by ordinance of parliament" in 1648, the manor of Blockley with the appurtenances thereof was sold September 28th, in the same year, to William Combe for £1394. 12s. 5d.¹

The amount of the rental of the manor in the year 1795 was as follows :—

Leasehold rents.....	£94 18 4½	} £101. 14s. 8d.
Freehold „	£6 16 3½	

Lord Northwick is the present lord of the manor.

BLOCKLEY AND THE BISHOPRICK OF WORCESTER.

Blockley was very closely connected with the see of Worcester during some hundreds of years. The patronage of the living is still vested in

¹ Habington's Antiquities of Worcester Cathedral.

the bishop. According to *Thomas's survey of Worcester cathedral*, the see of Worcester was taken out of that of Lichfield about the year 680 or sooner. The ancient province of Wiccia, (now called Worcestershire) was allotted to it, and the bishops of it were called *Episcopi Wicciorum*, the bishops of the Wiccians. The inhabitants of this part of Britain were called by the Romans either *Cornavii* or *Dobuni*.¹ Of the two names they were more probably known by that of "Dobuni" from *Dwfn* or *Duvun* or *Dovain*, a British word signifying a vale, or deep land; and so was most of this province, a vale upon the rivers Severn and Avon. But as soon as the Saxons had conquered Britain, the name of Dobuni was lost, and the German name of *Wiccii* was given to them; *Wic*, in their language, signifying a bank or crook of a river; and they inhabiting upon the crooks or windings of the said rivers, were by them properly called *Wiccians*; and the hills which terminate this vale to the east, now called Cotswould, were then called the *Wiccian hills*.² On referring to "*Antiquities and Folk-lore of Worcestershire*," by Allies, I find that he suggests that the derivation of "*Wiccii*" is from the salt pits, which in the old English language are called *Wiches*. Speaking of the Cotswould hills, Camden says they are so called "from the hills and sheepwalks. The English anciently called mountains and hills, *Woulds*, whence an old glossary renders the Alps in Italy the *Woulds* of Italy."

The connection of Blockley with the bishoprick has existed from very early times. In the year 855, Burhed or Burthred (King of the Mercians) for the redemption of his soul, and the forgiveness of his sins, gave to his faithful and very dear friend bishop Alwin or Alhun the monastery called *Bloccanlœgh*, (Blockley) free from all entertainment of the king's falconers and huntsmen, except those of the province of Wiccia, (Worcestershire) and from other taxes, as wall-work and sending men to the wars; for which the Bishop gave him 300 shillings in silver. At the time of Domesday survey (in the reign of William the Conqueror) the bishops held Blockley.³

¹ Nash's History of Worcestershire.

² Thomas's Survey, and Camden's *Britannia*

³ Thomas's Survey and Nash's History.

For some hundreds of years previous to the Reformation the bishops of Worcester had a palace at Blockley. It most probably stood near the south side of the church, on the site where now stand the houses and premises in the occupation of Messrs. Edwin Smith and R. B. Belcher. It is doubtful whether any portion of these buildings ever formed part of the identical palace of the bishops; the more ancient portion being "probably of a more recent date than the close of the 14th, or commencement of the 15th centuries, when the palace was deserted by the bishops."¹ There are traces of fish ponds at the bottom of the garden; and opposite the vicarage garden is a hill called the 'parks', supposed to have been the park of the bishop,² and now turned into farm lands, belonging to Lord Northwick. The site may be recognised by reference to the annexed general view.

Episcopal
Palace at
Blockley.



The date of the bishop's palace at Blockley is very doubtful. The earliest date concerning it, that I have been able to find, is A.D. 1131. In that year, "*at his palace at Blockele,*" Bishop Simon of Worcester, consecrated Serlo, a canon of Salisbury, to be abbot of Cirencester.³ In the bishop's records comprising the time from the reign of king Stephen to that of Richard II, (A.D. 1135-1377) are mentioned the names of many tenants with their rents; some paid in money, and some in dodokes of oats; which dodoke was a sealed measure remaining *in the custody of the Bishop at Blockley.*"

¹ Eyre's Blockley Guide.

² Nash.

³ Thomas's Survey.

A.D. 1255.

In this year, 2nd April, 39 Hen. III (according to Nash, June 15th, 32. Hen. III) the king granted to Walter, bishop of Worcester, the right of free warren in his manor of Blockley; so that no one should hunt or kill game there without the bishop's leave, upon the penalty of ten pounds.¹ This bishop was Walter de Cantelupe, who in the year 1263 began to fortify the manor house of Hartlebury.² He died "apud manerium suum de Blockelewe," (at his manor of Blockley) in February 1265, and was buried with great honour in his cathedral church of Worcester, near the great altar.³

A.D. 1275.

At the request of bishop Godfrey Giffard, Pope Gregory took under the protection of St. Peter and his own, the church of the Virgin Mary at Worcester, confirming thereto all its possessions, with certain manors (including Blockley) with all their appurtenances and privileges whatsoever. It was this bishop who completed the castle of Hartlebury as begun by his predecessor bishop Cantelupe.⁴

A.D. 1281.

In the 9th Edward I the bishop of Worcester held in Blockley in demesne 560 acres of arable, with six-score to the hundred, and 193 acres of meadow land. He also had very extensive woods and pastures; also fairs, oblations and a mill.⁵

A.D. 1340.

"On the 28th of June 1340, the king, Edward III, notified to the bishop (Wolstan de Braunsford) the great naval victory he had obtained over the French, commanding him to return thanks to God for the same, and to offer up prayers to Him for the happy progress of his arms. Upon which he (the bishop) enjoined the archdeacons of his diocese to stir up the clergy and people in all their churches to celebrate masses, to make solemn prayers and processions for the prosperity of the king and his army; and to all such as did so, he granted 40 days indulgence, dated at Blockley on the 12th of July 1340."⁶ The naval victory above mentioned, and in which 230 ships were taken, was near Sluys, and was obtained by the king on his return to Flanders.⁷

1 Thomas's Survey

2 Chambers's Biographical Illustrations of Worcestershire.

3-4 Wharton's Anglia Sacra.

5 Nash.

6 Thomas's Survey.

7 Haydn's Dictionary of Dates.

On the 3rd of March, A.D. 1395, bishop Henry Wakefield died at *Blockley* on his return from the parliament held at London.¹ He was buried between the lowermost pillars at the west end of the nave of the cathedral.² A.D. 1395.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

"It is evident from the Conqueror's survey³ that a Church existed at that time in *Blockley*."⁴ The present building is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. There are about 230 churches in England dedicated in the joint names of these two Apostles. In early dedications, although St. Peter was frequently honoured alone in the dedication of churches, St. Paul was almost invariably associated with St. Peter. And this was most probably in commemoration of their having suffered martyrdom together on the same day (June 29th) and almost within sight of each other, St. Paul suffering about 3 miles from Rome, and St. Peter on the Vatican hill. Some people think that it was in commemoration of their remains reposing in the same sepulchre, and others that it has equal reference to St. Peter having, like St. Paul, received a special call for the conversion of the Gentiles.⁵

In his collections, Bigland describes the parish church of *Blockley* as consisting of a "spacious nave, and north aisle of the middle ages. The chancel, of the Saxon style, is probably the same structure that is described in Domesday Book." In addition to the mother church there were anciently three chapels in the parish of *Blockley*. One was situated in *Blockley Warren*, one at *Paxford*, of neither of which does any trace remain; and the third at *Aston*. Dugdale, in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, speaking of *Stretton-on-Fosse*, observes that it was formerly a chapel *belonging to the Church of Blockley*; for in 1351 bishop Thoresby gave commission to John Severley, his vicar-general, to make enquiries concerning a petition of the inhabitants of *Stretton*, who, by reason of the great distance of their mother church at *Blockley*, desired leave to bury their dead at their own chapel. This petition was not granted, since in bishop Bour-

¹ Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*.

² Chambers's *Biographical Illustrations*

³ This was a survey of all England taken between A.D. 1083 and 1086, the 17th and 20th year of the Conqueror's reign. This record is called *Domesday Book*. (Camden's *Britt* :)

⁴ Nash's *History of Worcestershire*.

⁵ *Calendar of the Prayer Book*, 1866, published by James Parker & Co.,

chiers¹ time a composition was made between William Clerk,² vicar of Blockley, and John Clerke, rector of Stretton-upon-Fosse; the latter alleging that the vicar of Blockley was used to attend the corpse from Stretton to his church at Blockley; and the other saying, that the rector of Stretton ought to bring it to the church-yard gate; when it was agreed that for the future the rector of Stretton and his successors should accompany the funerals to the gate of Blockley church-yard; and that the vicar should receive the bodies there and give them burial. This deed is dated at Alvechurch, Sept. 13th, 1441. (Bigland also refers to this contention between the rector of Stretton and the vicar of Blockley.)

For some centuries Blockley was the only place of sepulture for several other adjacent parishes. Nash mentions Bourton-on-the-hill, Moreton-in-Marsh, and Batsford as having formerly buried at Blockley; from which parishes, as well as Stretton-on-Fosse, the vicar of Blockley formerly claimed mortuaries. A mortuary fee of ten shillings is still claimable by the vicar of Blockley from every parishioner who dies possessed of property to the value of £40 and upwards. By a bull of Pope Julius II who died in 1512 the parishioners of Moreton were permitted to bury in their own chapel "propter interposita montium juga præcipue brumali tempore," i. e. on account of the intervening hills, which (in those days) would be very difficult to travel over, especially in winter. The parishioners of Bourton-on-the-hill obtained permission to bury in their own cemetery in 1542. The parishioners of Batsford began to do so in 1697.³

Blockley was formerly exempted from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon (as indeed were all the old manors belonging to the bishop,⁴) and was only subject to *Episcopal* visitation. By an act of parliament passed in the present reign, (10 and 11 Vict., c. 98.) the exemption of parishes from Archidiaconal jurisdiction was abolished. It seems, however, that certain doubts arose as to the construction of this act of parliament, so that

1 He was consecrated bishop of Worcester about A.D. 1435, and afterwards became Archbishop of Canterbury, and a Cardinal

2 In the list of Vicars in the parish register, he is called John Clerk.

3 Bigland's Collections.

4 Nash.

in 1851 an order in council was made, by which all questions and doubts were set at rest. Under this order, "all peculiar and exempt jurisdiction in the diocese was abolished, and all parishes and places within the limits of the diocese, and all churches and chapels and the whole clergy and others notwithstanding such peculiar or other exempt jurisdiction or exemption from jurisdiction," were made "subject only to the jurisdiction and authority of the bishop and the respective archdeacons."

The benefice ceased to be a rectory in the reign of Edward I. Nash says that "*in the reign of Edward I*, the bishop obtained a bull from the Pope for the *appropriation* of the church of Blockley, with the chapels dependent thereon, to his see; and in the 9th year of Edward I. 1281, had a farther licence granted him by the king to that purpose. Bishop Thoresby endowed a vicarage here, Sept 20th 1352, in the fourth year of his translation." (*Bigland* says the benefice was a rectory until *appropriated* in 1327 by Thomas Cobham, Bishop of Worcester. This would be 20 years *after* the death of Edward I.) A copy of the Pope's bull and of the other documents referring to the appropriation of the Church of Blockley to the see of Worcester are to be found in Nash's history of Worcestershire, but they are too long to be transcribed here.

The instrument of endowment by Bishop Thoresby of the vicarage with tithes of hay, wool, &c., is preserved in the registry of the diocese and bears date at "Blokkele" 20th September, 1352. I subjoin a translation of it which was found in the diocesan registry, and of which I was allowed to take a copy through the kindness of the Registrar of the diocese A. C. Hooper Esq.

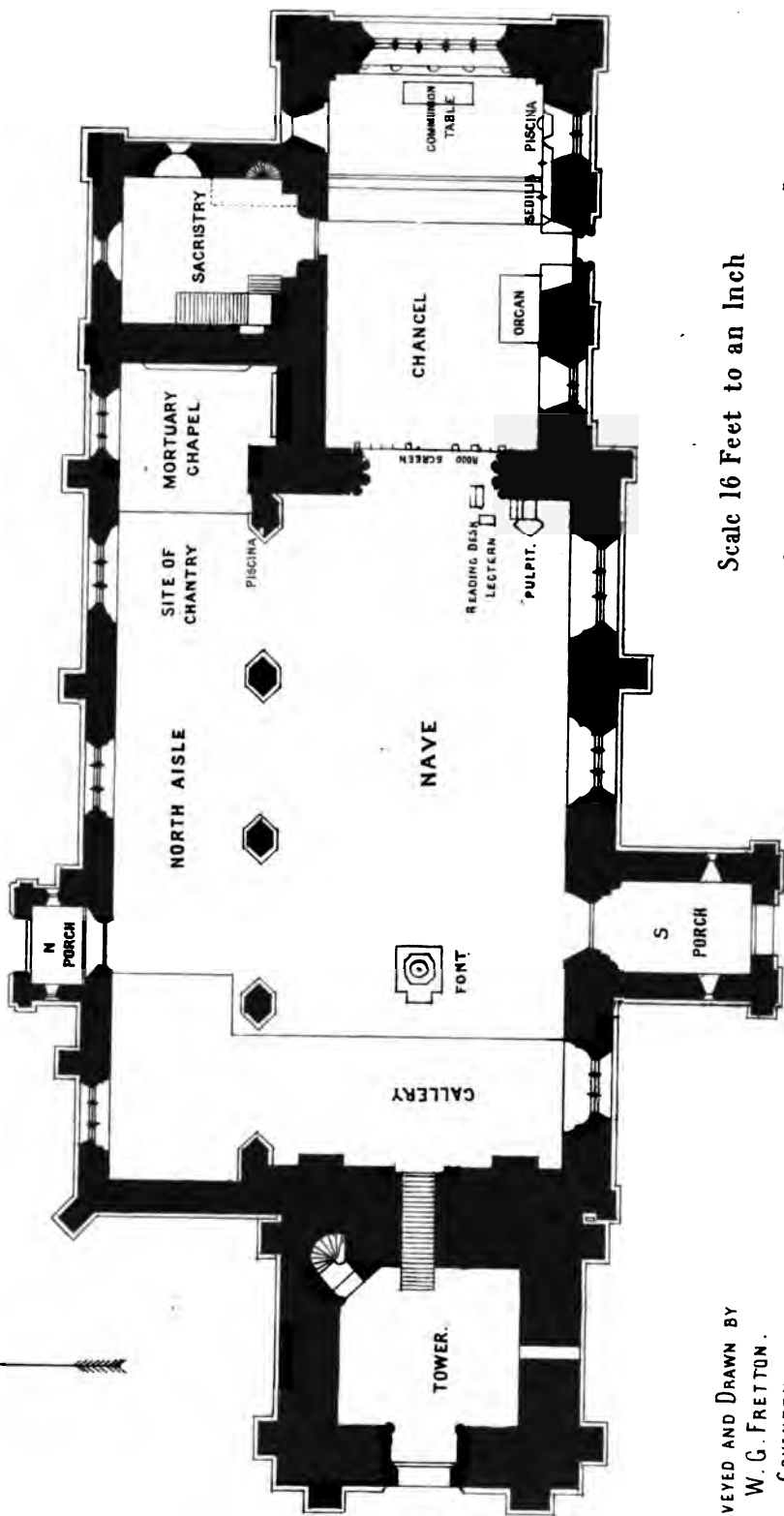
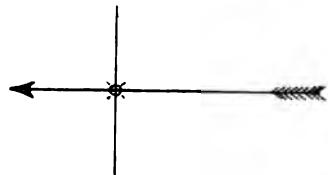
"To all the sons of Holy Mother Church who shall inspect these present letters, John by divine permission Bishop of Worcester, happiness of eternal salvation in Christ. For a perpetual memorial to those who shall come after, We will that the things which have been wholesomely appointed to the praise of God be confirmed by written evidence, lest thro' lapse of time they should be lost or thro' want of memorial should be accidentally revoked. Whereas the parish church of Blockley in our diocese hath been and is by apostolical authority canonically appropriated for the table of the

Translation of
Blockley Vicar-
age Endow-
ment.

bishops of Worcester, a due portion being reserved to the Vicar for the time being, We in our pastoral care, as we are in duty bound, desiring to carry so salutary a work into effect, and for the indemnity of the aforesaid church and the health of the souls of the parishioners there, do ordain, assign, and confirm a proper portion and maintenance for the perpetual Vicar now ministering in the said church and having the cure of souls there, and for his successors in the said vicarage and church for the time being for ever, to consist of the underwritten fruits and profits of the said church, viz: That the present vicar of the church of Blockley for his time and his successors for their time shall have and possess that manse or messuage in which the parish priest or dean were used to dwell and one house called Mosthous situate near the said messuage and one plot of the area of the said rectory near the manse bounded by pales, and twenty acres of land of the demesne land of the rector.

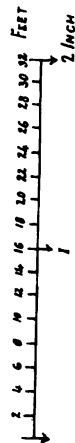
“Item.—We ordain and decree that the bishops of Worcester for the time being, shall have the lands and meadows of the demesne of the said church except those twenty acres aforesaid, the usual reserved rents, the tythe corn and grain of the whole parish, Peter's pence and the exempt jurisdiction of the deanery of Blockley aforesaid, synodals, the stipend of the dean, corn grain and hay of the demesne lands and meadows, and the wool of all the tenants free and clear from the payment of tithes.

“Item.—We ordain and decree that the same vicars shall have and entirely receive all oblations made in the aforesaid church or in the chapels depending on or annexed to the same or in either of the porches or churchyards, or in any other holy place whatsoever, the tythe hay of the whole parish except of the bishop's demesnes, tythe of underwood and of other trees, of spring oaks, wool of lambs, calves, pigs, chickens, geese, eggs, milk, cheese wax, honey, and bees, gardens, curtilages, dovecotes, mills, hemp, flax, mortuaries as well living as dead, pickage, nine feet about the chapel in the fair or market, pensions and portions, the trees and herbage growing in the churchyards of the said church and its chapels, with pasture for nine oxen or kine in the pasture of the said bishop and the corn or fruit called Chyrchescot on St. Martin's day, and all other profits and oblations whatsoever in any manner appertaining to the said church.



SURVEYED AND DRAWN BY
W. G. FRETTON.
COVENTRY.

Scale 16 Feet to an inch



PLAN OF BLOCKLEY CHURCH.

"Item.—We ordain and decree that the said vicars shall find one parochial chaplain to celebrate divine service in the parish church aforesaid, and one chaplain in the time of the fairs to celebrate divine service in the chapel situate in the fair, bread and wine for these chaplains and for the parishioners communicating at Easter, and one bushel of bread corn for an oblation to the ministering priests on Easter day, bell ropes, thirteen wax candles to be renewed in the chancel three times a year, wax tapers at easter, books and ornaments for the said church to be found at their costs and expenses. But the burden of building, supporting and repairing the aforesaid church, and all other burdens ordinary and extraordinary in what way-soever named or assessed the bishops of Worcester rectors for the time being shall bear, sustain, and take upon them. But if any things of consequence or importance should have been by accident omitted in this our present ordination We reserve by the tenor of these presents to ourselves and our successors a free power of correcting it, adding to it, or altering it on mature deliberation as occasions shall offer, and as often as to us or to them shall seem expedient.

In witness whereof our seal is set to these presents. Dated at Blokele the twentieth day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand three hundred and fifty-two, and in the fourth year of our translation."

The income of the living is derived partly from tithes, and partly from land allotted at the inclosure 1772, in lieu of tithes. In the king's books the first fruits are rated at £54.

The great tithes of the parish are owned jointly by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and Lord Northwick, and Lord Redesdale.

Blockley gives name to a rural deanery of which the present vicar is the dean. The deanery includes the parishes of Blockley, Aston Magna, Daylesford, Evenlode, Stretton-on-Fosse, with Ditchford, and the lately assigned hamlet of Cutsdean in the parish of Bredon.

The chancel bears many external evidences of its Norman origin in the usual form of shallow buttresses, a corbel table running along its north

Exterior.
Chancel.

and south sides beneath the parapet; a Norman window on the north side, the east and south lights having been altered as mentioned in the description of the interior.

In the year 1838 the east wall and a portion of the north wall were rebuilt, the foundation stone bearing this inscription:—"This stone was laid on the day of the coronation of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, XXVIII June, A.D. MDCCCXXXVIII. on the rebuilding of the north and east walls of this chancel.

MILES COYLE, M.A., Vicar.

WILLIAM JEAN, B.A., Curate.

J. WESTMACOTT.—W. PHILIPS, Churchwardens.

J. BEARCROFT, Clerk.

R. HULLS, Builder.

J. M. T. and C. POWELL, Masons.

T. KINGEELFE, Plumber.

T. FIGGURES, Plasterer."

Over the east window is inserted a Norman loop-hole, and on the gable a plain cross. On the south parapet is the following inscription:—"This battlement on the chancel was erected at the voluntary expense of y^e Hon^{ble} Colonel Hunt. Anno Dni. 1738."

On the same side is an early pointed priest's door. It is evident from the weather moulding above the roof, on the east wall of the nave, that the roof of the chancel has been lowered.

The exterior of the sacristy or vestry plainly shows that portion of the north wall has been removed for the purpose of adding this feature, part of the materials of which are used in its construction, the corbel table still remains within the roof, one similar in character being added to the north wall of the sacristy. The buttresses of this portion are shallow, and the windows narrow and devoid of ornament. The parapet like that of the rest of the church is plain.

Nave.

The south front of the nave has a clerestory of four square-headed windows of three lights each, all of which have a plain label moulding. Four windows of a similar character form the clerestory on the north side.

The north aisle is of plain design, and bears signs of alteration. It has an upper series of four small square-headed windows of two lights each, the easternmost being smaller than the others. At the north-west angle is the only diagonal buttress in the building.

There are two porches, north and south; the latter of which is Porches. embattled, and of the same style as the tower. It bears a sundial, and has this inscription :—

“ WILLIAM DIDE,
 “ THOMAS WIDDOWES,
 “ Churchwardens, Anno D.,
 1630.”

Within this porch is the original south Norman doorway, enclosing a square-headed tympanum and a pointed arch.



The north porch was built by subscription in 1871, at a cost of £36 19s. 0d. This porch was added for weather purposes, and to help to shut out as much as possible, during the times of divine service, the noise of the foot traffic which passed close by the original door.

In the year 1724 a meeting of parishioners was held for the purpose of making a levy to provide funds for taking down the old tower, which required rebuilding. The cost of taking down the tower (including the removal of the bells) was about £25, the work being done by Mr. Thos. Woodward, a mason, of Chipping Campden, by whom also the erection of the present tower was carried out. It was commenced in 1725,

The Tower.
 A.D. 1724.

and was continued to completion during the next two years. The first stone was laid by Sir John Rushout, Bart., whose name is inscribed thereon. The present tower, which stands at the west end, consists of four stories, and is somewhat meagre in design, as may be expected from the period in which it was built. It has a door in the west side, above which, on the second story, is a round-headed window. On the third story is a clock dial, and in ¹ the upper, a window of two lights on each face of the tower. At each corner is a pinnacle surmounted by a vane, and in the centre of each side a smaller one.

It is evident that the materials of the old tower were brought largely into requisition in building the present one; and it is probable, from the appearance, that the lower portion of the eastern wall was not disturbed in rebuilding the tower; the stair turret being clearly constructed from the former one, pieces of Norman shafting and moulding being traceable in many places. From this it is clear that the old tower was of Norman design, and, therefore, much superior in style to the present one. The total cost was borne by the parishioners, and was raised by means of levies made at the rate of so much per yard land.² These are entered in the parish book, as follows:—

From "y ^e first levy made 9 ^{ber} 23rd, 1725	...	...	...	£105	8	0
y ^e second levy made May 17th, 1726	...	...	...	105	8	0
y ^e third levy made 7 ^{ber} 6th, 1726	...	...	...	105	8	0
y ^e fourth levy made 9 ^{ber} 14th, 1726	...	...	...	104	12	0
y ^e fifth levy made August, 1727	...	...	...	100	1	6
				<hr/> £520 17 6" <hr/>		

Of this sum, all was collected except £4 16s. 8½d.

The sum paid to Mr. Woodward for the erection (as shewn by the receipts signed by him, and entered in the parish book) was £500.

¹ A new clock was purchased A.D. 1729, and paid for by means of a levy,

² The yard land or virgate was about 40 acres. Nash says the virgate is explained in a M. S. in the time of Henry V. to contain 30 acres, sometimes 24, and sometimes 15.

In the lower story of the tower are two mutilated effigies (of the Elizabethan period) once recumbent, but now removed from their original position and placed here.

In the upper story is a peal of six bells, with the following inscriptions :

Bells.

1st Bell.—“ Robert Warner and Robert Robbins. Samuel Scattergood
Rector, 1683. C. W. M. B.
Carolus II. Dei Gratiâ.”

2nd Bell.—“ Alfred Fletcher and William Davis, Churchwardens, 1679.”

3rd Bell.—“ Prosperity to this parish. A. R., 1729.”

4th Bell.—“ God save the King, 1638.”

5th Bell.—“ Henry Baglee made me, 1638.”

6th Bell.—“ I. and E. Meres, Founders, London.

Miles Coyle, Vicar,

William Phillips, } Churchwardens,
John Hiron, } 1854.

Glory to God in the highest.”

The 3rd bell seems to have been taken to Gloucester in 1729 to be recast. The work was done by Mr. Abraham Rudhall (whose initials appear on the bell), and is entered in the parish accounts as follows :

“ Paid to Mr. Abraham Rudhall for casting the third bell, and for waste and new mettle added to the said bell, and a clapper, £12 8s. 6d.”

Payments to ringers in 1729 in Churchwardens' accounts :—

“ Paid to John Keen for the ringers at gunpowder	}	0	6	0		
treason						
“ At the coronation of King George	0	1	6
1733. “ Paid to John Keen for the ringers on the 29th	}	0	3	0		
of May						

The names of the present ringers are James Keen, Charles Webb, Joseph Bailey, Charles Keyte, Frederick Webb, and Frederick Ellis.

Interior
Chancel.

The Chancel possesses some of the oldest features of the building, and consists chiefly of late Norman work. Its interior measures in length from east to west 32 feet 6 inches, and in breadth 18 feet 6 inches. It was evidently either vaulted with stone, or intended so to be, as appears from the clustered corbel shafts remaining on the north and south walls. Corresponding pillars also remain in the N. E. and S. W. corners. Above the present ceiling are remains of a former open timbered roof of high pitch. One Norman window still exists on the north side; the other two which lighted this side being closed with masonry, though indications of their position may be traced; their size corresponding with the one still existing. The east window is pointed and clearly a later insertion. It consists of five lights, with geometric tracery in the head, and is filled with stained glass, in memory of the Honourable Elizabeth Grieve.

The south windows have also apparently been altered, those east and west retaining the size of the original Norman openings with their side columns, but the heads converted into pointed arches, with geometric tracery, the lower portion being divided into two lights. The centre window appears to have been entirely altered, and has three lights with perpendicular tracery in the head. Underneath is a square-headed doorway, and by its side a small organ, the gift of the present Lord Northwick. Under the S. E. window is a handsome piscina and sedilia, of decorated work, the whole series comprising four ogee openings, enriched above with crockets and finials. The piscina is trefoiled in the head with cusplings, and is divided into two compartments by a shelf, which (as also the water receptacle and drain) has lately been restored. The sedilia is a triple one, the shafts dividing the series being detached; the mouldings of the arches being continued to the base of each division of the sedilia.

Under the east window is a modern (1838) reredos of four compartments of similar design to the sedilia, but of rather inferior material and workmanship. In the north wall, opposite to the sedilia, an aumbry, divided by a transome and partitioned into four compartments, was discovered lately (1872) during the replastering of the wall; but it has been bricked in and plastered over again. I think it is to be regretted that this feature was

not restored.¹

The Chancel arch is of perpendicular work, with plain chamfered mouldings, springing from the original Norman piers supporting a former arch. The lower portion of these piers has been cut away to widen the aperture, in which is a perpendicular oak screen, of three divisions; the central one being open, and without any ornament; the side compartments being divided by open panel work with pierced tracery in the heads; the lower portion consisting of solid panels. The carved work along the top has been lately added. Access to the rood loft was gained by a stair (now closed) in the thickness of the south chancel wall. The roof is plastered internally, and is a plain pointed vault. Its date may probably be 1702, as in that year, William Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester "ceiled and beautified the chancel." Such ceiling and beautifying is very inappropriate, and it is a matter for regret that the proper timbered roof has never been restored, the greater portion of it being still hidden above the present inappropriate ceiling.

During the late alterations and repairs, fragmentary portions of ancient fresco paintings were discovered on both walls and arches, in several layers, indicating that they had been painted at different periods. They were too much mutilated and the material too friable to justify any attempt to preserve them.

It may be as well to mention here that in the year 1831 the chancel was repaired; and as the repairs of the chancel are chargeable for ever on certain lands, it may be useful to record the proportions payable by the holders of those lands. In 1831 a rate of £8 was made and charged in the following proportions:

Lord Northwick for Glebe land in the township of Block-						
ley, and hamlets of Northwick and Draycott— <i>one</i>						
<i>half</i>	...	...	...	...	...	£4 0 0

¹ It is desirable to explain that the interior walls of this church are so roughly and irregularly built, that it is impossible to leave the stone-work bare.

Mr. Grimmett, Aston Magna, for glebe land in the hamlet of Aston Magna— <i>one fifth</i>	£1 12 0
Mrs. Roberts, Paxford, for glebe land in the hamlet of Paxford, late Nicholas Field's— <i>two thirds of</i> <i>one fifth</i>	£1 1 4
Late Rev. Wm. Boughton, for the corn tithes of Ditchford and Dorn— <i>one tenth</i>	£0 16 0
Mr. Henry Roberts, Paxford, for glebe land in the hamlet of Paxford, late T. Roberts— <i>one third of</i> <i>one fifth</i>	£0 10 8
	<hr/> £8 0 0

On the north side of the chancel is a pointed doorway communicating with an early English structure (now used as the vestry) probably anciently used as the chantry founded in honour of the Virgin Mary by Ralph de Baketon in 1320; though it is doubtful whether it was not intended originally as the residence of the priest in charge. This structure consists of two stories; the lower one being lighted by two narrow pointed windows splayed very deeply on the inner sides; one of these is on the north, the other somewhat out of the centre of the eastern wall. In the west wall is a locker; and in the S. E. corner a stone stair (now closed) communicating with the upper chamber. Access is now obtained by means of a wooden stair on the west side, If it were possible to restore the original means of communication, a considerable enlargement of both rooms would be obtained, and their proportions recovered. The lower room is now used as a vestry; the upper one for parish meetings.

In this latter is an old oak chest, and some superseded service books; the oldest of which is a folio black letter Bible, temp: James 1st, in its original wooden boards, clasped, and covered with leather; also a very ancient edition of Bishop Jewel's Apology, who died in 1571.

Chantry.

This Chantry was endowed by Ralph de Baketon with 2 messuages, and 26 acres of arable land, and 2 of meadow. The deed was confirmed the

same year (1320) by the prior and chapter.

In the year 1356, 30 Edw. III, John de Blockeleie gave to this chantry, and to John Wilde the chaplain, and his successors, 2 messuages, 54 acres of land, $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, 4 acres of pasture, 4 shillings of rent, and a rent of 4 hens, and one loaf of a Bushel of corn, with the appurtenances in Hanging-Aston. Deed witnessed by Thomas Clipston, Thomas Child, John Loger, and others.

John de Blokley again increased the revenues of this chantry by a subsequent gift of 49 Edw. III, when he bestowed on Henry Rose, the chaplain, and his successors, one messuage, a mill, a toft, and an acre of land in Blockley, 5 acres of land in Hanging-Aston, and 27 shillings of rent in Dorne. The witnesses to this deed were John Dychford, John Child, and others. By Henry VIII's original valor of this Diocese in the first-fruits office, it appears that the chantry of the Blessed Virgin in this church was worth yearly £11 11s. 7d. In an original valor 26 Hen: VIII, at the same office it is rated only at £5 11s.¹ On the 14th February 1375, Bishop Wakefield confirmed the ordination of the chantry of John de Blockley.²

The body of the church consists of nave and north aisle. The nave measures internally 58 feet in length by 25 feet 6 inches in breadth. It is lighted by three large perpendicular windows on the south side, of three lights each; the easternmost being square headed, the others obtuse pointed. On each side are four debased square clerestory windows, between each of which, the upper part of the walls are thickened inwards on corbelling. On the faces of these portions still remain the brackets which formerly supported the principals of the open timber roof, which was doubtless of the usual perpendicular character internally, but covered externally by a roof of more elevated pitch, corresponding with the gable of the east wall of the nave. The present ceiling is of plaster, flat, with circular classical ornaments, all out of character with the building. At the west end is a gallery extending also across the north aisle.³ The eastern buttresses of the tower

Nave.

¹ Nash.

² Thomas' Survey.

³ The date of the erection of this gallery is probably 1735. In the parish accounts there is an entry of a payment to "Robert Hull towards the gallery" £5 10s.

project into the nave at the west end, and between them are the piers of a Norman doorway now blocked up. On the south is a porch, of modern date, between which and the church is a somewhat lofty Norman doorway, within which is inserted a late perpendicular square framework enclosing a pointed arch; the spandrils being filled in with appropriate ornament. The pulpit is of oak, Jacobean in design. The font is of stone, of decorated character, octagonal in plan, with quarterfoils on each face, having a four-leaved flower in the centre. Within the moulding, beneath the basin, and above the pedestal is a row of similar ornaments. The base consists of one step only; and a modern carved oak cover serves as a canopy.

North aisle.

The north aisle is separated from the nave by four arches with plain chamfered mouldings, supported on hexagonal piers. The original length of this aisle corresponded with the nave, with a width of about 11 feet. It is lighted on the north by four debased windows, with a similar number of smaller ones above them, of like character; and by a small pointed one (much altered) at the west end. It is evident from the existence of a piscina, of somewhat ornamental design, but mutilated, fixed to the north chamfer of the semi-column at the east end of this aisle, and from other indications, that a wall formerly bounded this aisle in a line with the chancel arch, and that under the east window of this aisle, an altar undoubtedly stood. It may be suggested that the chantry chapel founded in honour of St. Mary by Ralph de Baketon in 1320, was transferred to, and occupied this position during the latter period of its existence previous to the Reformation, when all endowments of this kind were diverted into other channels. It is quite clear that the aisle did not originally extend to its present limits, from the fact that its present east and south walls were certainly external walls, as shewn by the presence of the corbel tables just below the roof, which correspond with the south wall of the chancel and sacristy adjoining; as well as from the closed Norman window in the chancel wall, before referred to as one of the closed lights.¹ The space by

¹ Since the above was written the east wall of this aisle has been internally repaired. In the process the old Norman corbel tables which ran along beneath the roof have been removed, and a triple arcade of mixed architectural design has been substituted.

which the north aisle has thus been extended eastward, is now occupied as the vault of the Northwick family. The roof of this aisle, and its extension was restored in 1872, one half (£44 9s. 7d.) of the expense being borne by Lord Northwick, who has also removed at his own cost, the hideous structures which lately occupied the greater portion of this aisle, and substituted for them open oak seats. The floor has also been newly paved at his Lordship's cost. Formerly the whole of the church was disfigured by high pews, but the present vicar, soon after his appointment to the living, entirely removed them from the north side of the nave, and re-seated it at his own expense. In 1872, the south side, and the chancel were similarly improved, the cost (about £333) being provided by public subscription. At the same time the old stove used for warming the church, and which burned much fuel, but gave little heat, was removed, and a warming apparatus by means of hot water pipes laid down throughout the building, substituted in the place of it. This apparatus was provided by Messrs Jones and Lowe, of Worcester at a cost of £93 9s. included in the above sum of £333.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH.

In the year 1706, Elizabeth Martyn, wife of Francis Martyn, Esq., of Upton Wold, gave a large silver plate for use at Holy Communion; it bears this inscription: "Hanc patinam sacris in ecclesiâ de Blockley pro singulari suâ pietate dedicavit Dna. Eliz: uxor Fran: Martyn Arm: 1706."

In the year 1707, Dame Sarah Shore gave a Communion Table Cloth, and Damask napkin.

In the year 1732, the Right Hon. Elizabeth Countess Dowager of Northampton, sister of Sir John Rushout, Bart. of Northwick, gave the Silver Communion Service, now in use, and also a fine Damask Table Cloth, and six napkins. The Communion Service consists of 2 large Flagons, 2 Chalices, 2 Patens, 1 Plate, 1 Alms Dish. The Alms Dish has on it this inscription; "This set of Communion Plate was given to y^e church of Blockley, by y^e Right Hon^{ble}. Eliz. Countess Dowager of Northampton, Anno. 1732. Weight of y^e whole set of plate 164oz. 16dw^t. "

The following gifts have been also lately made:—Altar Candlesticks,

and the Lectern lights by Mrs. Bromfield; the Book of Common Prayer, by Mrs. Henry Grisewood; the Lesson Book by the Rev. H. and Mrs. Bromfield; the pulpit lights by the Rev. H. Bromfield; and the small desk light by the Rev. A. J. Soden. The carpet within the sacrarium, and on the altar step, is of needle-work, executed by parishioners and other friends.

The organ (a chamber one) was presented by Lord Northwick, being brought from his lordship's residence at Cheltenham.

MONUMENTS, EPITAPHS, &c., &c.

THE CHANCEL.

East Window.

The subjects of this window are in medallions illustrating the Nativity, Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord.

In the two outer lights, Christ's charge to St. Peter, and the Conversion of St. Paul. The subjects are surrounded by a border or band of colour; and the backgrounds are filled in with ornamental work. In the smaller medallions, are the heads of the twelve apostles, and emblems. In the tracery are various church symbols. At the base of the window is the following inscription:—

Grieve
A.D. 1862.

"To the Memory of the Hon^{ble}. Elizabeth Grieve, daughter of John 1st Lord Northwick, who died January 15th, 1862, this window is dedicated by her affectionate nephew, Sir Charles Rushout, Bart: and his children."

The window was designed and executed by Messrs. Holland and Holt of Warwick in the year 1865.

Warthim
A.D. 1435.

On a large flat stone is a curious portrait in brass of Philip Warthim, Vicar of Blockley, nearly 400 years ago. He is represented as kneeling, with his face northwards, wearing his sacerdotal robes. Before him are the out-lines of a chalice cut in the stone. Above his head is a label or scroll with these words: "Unica spes vitæ mihi, virgo, cœlica pande," which translated literally is, "O virgin, sole hope of life to me, open Heaven's portals for me." Above the scroll appears to have been a figure in brass

of the Virgin Mary, and the child Jesus. At the feet of the priest are the following lines in old English letters:—

“Insignem gravitate virum gemino decoratum
Scole gradu semper pietat’ ad opera primum
In cineres versum dureque sub marmore pressum
Plangite, voxque sonet sit tibi vita Deus.”

(TRANSLATED.)

A man of worth, and erst of good degree,
Foremost in works of love and piety,
Now turned to dust, beneath this marble pressed,
(In hopes of immortality doth rest.)
Oh! mourn for him, and let your prayers abound,
That God above his life and strength be found.

Along the margin of the stone is this inscription: “Hic jacet
Magister Phillippus Warthim in artibus magstr, quondam vicarius ecclie de
Blockley, qui obiit in crastino sti Bartholomœi A.D. MCCCCLXXXIIII.
cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen.”

(TRANSLATED.)

Here lies Master Philip Warthim, M. A., formerly Vicar of
Blockley, who died on the morrow of St. Bartholomew, A.D. 1485.¹ To
whose soul may God be merciful.

At the back of the central compartment of the sedilia is a small
figure in brass of William Neele, Vicar of Blockley in the reign of Henry
VII. He is represented in his priestly robes, with a cope. This figure has
been placed in its present position, simply for the sake of preservation.
Formerly it was on a blue grave-stone within the sacrarium, but when the
floor was relaid about 30 years ago, this stone was removed to make way
for rather common looking tiles. Fortunately the brass figure was pre-
served, but only a portion of the inscription. On one side of the border

Neele
A.D. 1510.

¹ Naah's date is 1488.

of the stone were these words: "Jesus amor meus, vita mea, justorum lætitia." on the other: "Ne elongeris a me, Deus meus." Over the body; "Benedictus Deus." Underneath, (in abbreviated Latin)—"Orate p ma Magistri Willi Neele quonda vicarii huj^s ecclie et rectoris ecclie de Burton sup aqua qui obiit VIII die Augusti A^o dni MDX, cuj^s me ppicietur Deus. Amen."¹

(TRANSLATED.)

Jesus, my love, my life, the joy of the just. Be not far from me, my God. Blessed be God. Pray for the soul of Master William Neele, formerly Vicar of this church, and Rector of the church of Bourton-on-the-water; who died the 8th day of August 1510, to whose soul may God be merciful. Amen.

Palmer
A.D. 1659.

When the old pews in the Chancel were lately removed, there was found on the south side, under the Chancel Arch, a flat stone, (now hidden by the flooring of the new seats,) bearing the following inscription.

"Hic requiescit Edvardus Palmer, Filius Roberti Palmer et conjugis suæ Elizabethæ Wise, In cujus memoriam uxor adamata Maria Filia Henrici Jones de Chastleton in com: Oxon: Arm: Hoc ultimum amoris monumentum posuit. Obiit 15 die Decembris Anno Dom: 1659 ætatis suæ 45^{to}."

(TRANSLATED.)

Here rests Edward Palmer, Son of Robert Palmer and his wife Elizabeth Wise. To whose memory, his beloved wife Maria, daughter of Henry Jones of Chastleton, in the County of Oxford, Esquire, placed this last token of affection. He died on the 15th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1659, in the 45th year of his age.

Jombharte.

From Nash I find that there was formerly on another stone in the Chancel, a kneeling figure of a priest in his robes. Underneath was the following inscription:—

¹ Nash.

"Quisquis es qui transieris sta, perlege, plora;
Sum quod eris, fueramque quod es, pro me precor, ora."

(TRANSLATED.)

Whoever thou art that passest by, stay, ponder, mourn; I am what you will be; and I have been what you are; pray for me, I entreat.

On the border of the stone was this inscription. much defaced by time:—

"Hic jacet magister Willielmus Jombharte, Bacalaureus utriusque juris, quondam Rector ecclesiæ de —— Fosse, qui obiit in vigiliâ sanc: Trinitatis videlt duodecimo die mensis Junii, A.D.——.

(TRANSLATED.)

Here lies Master William Jombharte, Bachelor of Civil and Canon Law, formerly Rector of [Stretton?] upon Fosse, who died on the vigil of Holy Trinity, the 12th of June, A.D.——.

[The burial of a Rector of Stretton-on-Fosse in Blockley Church is accounted for when we bear in mind that this was the mother church for several of the surrounding parishes, Stretton-on-Fosse being one of them. Probably at the time of Mr. Jombharte's death, Stretton had not obtained the right of sepulture within its own church. This flat stone with the kneeling figure in brass was in existence about 40 years ago; but I imagine it has been made away with, by some sacrilegious hand, during a so-called *restoration*; and no trace now remains except a portion of the brass border which was let into the stone, and which bears a part of the above inscription.]

This Mural tablet on the south wall of the chancel was erected by the late Admiral Sir E. Collier. The inscription is as follows:—

Collier
A.D. 1678
to
A.D. 1828.

"Sacred to the memory of Giles Collier, Clerk, A.M., Vicar of this parish who died A.D. 1678, and Mary his widow who died A.D. 1695. Also of their two Sons, Stephen Collier, Clerk, A.M., Rector of Rodmarton, County Glouc. who died A.D. 1722: and Nathaniel Collier, Clerk, A.M. of Duns Tew, Oxon, and Jevington, who died A.D. 1691: and Mary his widow who died A.D., 1720: also of their four Sons, Richard Collier of the city of London, who died A.D. 1758, and Rupertia his wife: Nathaniel Collier,

Clerk, D.D., Vicar of Croydon, Surry, who died A.D. 1754: Giles Collier, Gent, who died A.D. 1772: and William Collier, Clerk, A.M. Vicar of Cold Ashby, County Northampton, who died A.D. 1762. Also of Edward Collier, Gent: Son of the above named Richard and Rupertia, who died A.D. 1797, aged 70 years: and Ann his widow, who died A.D. 1809, aged 66 years: also of Ann their daughter, relict of Arnold Jenkins, Clerk, B.D., Rector of Tredington in this County, who died A.D. 1811, aged 40 years: also of Richard Collier, Clerk, A.M., Son of Edward and Ann, Vicar of Upton Snodsbury in this County, who died respected and lamented, the 17th day of March, 1828, aged 58 years."

Selwyn
A.D. 1764.

On the north wall is a mural tablet to the memory of the Revd. C. J. Selwyn, Vicar of Blockley, A.D. 1761. Through the kindness of a member of the Selwyn family, I have ascertained that this tablet was erected by — Freeman, Esq., the then possessor of the Batsford estate. The inscription is as follows:—

"To the Rev. Charles Jasper Selwyn, M.A., descended from an antient and respectable family in the County of Gloucester, late Rector of Beverstone in the same County, and the very exemplary vicar of the parish of Blockley in the County of Worcester. He departed this life 10th of September, 1794, in the 67th year of his age, and 41st of his ministry. He was buried in the adjoining parish of Batsford. The memory of this excellent man will be dear to the wise and good, so long as Christian zeal in a Minister of the Church of England, unshaken integrity in a well-informed Magistrate, and the exact observance of every Christian, social, and relative duty exercised upon all occasions with uncommon humility are held in estimation and respect. These words so justly descriptive of the character they commemorate, are inscribed on this tablet by a friend to truth and real merit, with the hope, that the many virtues, and the bright example of so valuable a member of society may be long remembered by the present generation, and may be transmitted to future ages for the benefit of the latest posterity."

Rushout
A.D. 1840.

This monument is on the north wall of the chancel, close to the Screen. It was very costly, and was erected by members of the Rushout

family. On the base is this inscription:—

“Sacred to the memory of the Hon^{ble}. Anne Rushout, daughter to the Lord Northwick, who died on the fourth of April, 1849, universally beloved and regretted.”

Over the vestry door is another costly monument, to the memory of the late Lord Northwick. The subject represented is “the Good Samaritan.” This monument is considered a fine piece of sculpture, the work having been executed in Italy. The following inscription is on the base:—

Northwick
A.D. 1859.

“Sacred to the memory of the Right Honourable John, Lord Northwick, who was born in February, 1769. Died January, 1859, aged 89 years. This monument was erected by his surviving relatives.”

On the south side of the chancel, the eastern-most window has been lately filled with stained glass in memory of the late Admiral Sir Edward Collier, K. C. B. The window is in the 16th century style and the subjects illustrated are the two patron saints of the parish church, St. Peter and St. Paul, surmounted by richly decorated canopies. Inscription at the base:—

Collier
A.D. 1872.

“Ad Dei gloriam atque in memoriam Edwardi Collier, Blockleiensis, Classis regiae praefecti, et Balnei in ordinem nobilissimum ascripti equitis.”

“Natus est Oct. 15, 1783.”—

“Obiit Aug. 5. 1872.”

(TRANSLATED.)

“To the glory of God, and to the memory of Edward Collier, of Blockley, an Admiral in the Royal Navy, and Knight Commander of the most Honourable order of the Bath.”

“Born, Oct. 15, 1783.”—

“Died, Aug. 5, 1872.”

[The above window was erected at the cost of Sir Edward Collier's great nephew, Norman Collier Maclean. The work was designed and executed by Messrs. Jones and Willis, of Birmingham.]

MONUMENTS IN THE NAVE.

Carter
A.D. 1667.

A mural monument on north side of chancel arch: arms: azure, two lions combatant or, for Carter; impaling, gules, a chevron vair between three crescents argent, for Goddard.

(INSCRIPTION.)

"Memoriæ sacrum Edwardi Carter, de Upton old, armigeri Legum Angl: Professoris: viri tantâ pietate in Deum O.M. beneficentiâ erga pauperes, fidelitate adversus amicos, justitiâ atque candore in omnes, ut dignissimus plane sit qui posteris ad imitandum proponatur. Obiit 27 die Feb: A^o. Dⁿⁱ. 1667 ætatis suæ 45.

Edvardum juxta sita est, Maria Carter, Edwardi et Mariæ filia natu minor, Eximiæ pietatis virgo, utriusque parentis virtutum æmula, quæ dum Bathoniæ, sanitati corporis operam dedit salutem æternam consecuta est 25 die Junii, A^o. Dⁿⁱ. 1675, ætatis suæ 19. Marmor hoc sepulchrale posuit Maria Carter, Edwardi conjux, Mariæ Mater charissima."

[TRANSLATED.]

Sacred to the memory of Edward Carter, Esq^{re}. of (Hither) Upton Old, Professor of English Law; a man of such piety towards God, liberality towards the poor, fidelity to his friends, justice and sincerity towards all, that he may certainly be set forth as one most worthy of imitation by posterity. He died 27th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1667, in the 45th year of his age.¹

Near Edward Carter lies

Mary Carter, the younger daughter of Edward and Mary Carter, a maiden of excellent piety, and an imitator of her parents' virtues; who, while endeavouring at Bath to restore her bodily health, obtained eternal health on the 25th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1675, in the 19th year of her age. Her most affectionate mother Mary, the wife of Edward Carter erected this sepulchral monument."

¹ According to the parish Register Edward Carter, Esq^{re}., was buried Feb. 19th, 1667.

If this date is correct, the day of his death recorded on the monument cannot be correct. One of the two dates must evidently be wrong.

This monument is surmounted by coat of arms:—Quarterly, per Fess indented azure and or, in the first quarter a lion passant gardant of the second for Croft; impaling azure, semè of fleur de lis a lion rampant gardant or, for Beaumont. Motto: vigilate et orate. (Watch and Pray.)

“In memory of Edward Croft of Northw^k. Gent, and of Jane his relict who (as a lasting testimony of her piety and charity) bequeath'd £3 10s. to y^e use of y^e poor of this parish for ever. They were both inter'd in their own seat near y^e uppermost pillar in this church, He y^e 20th of Feb., 1706, aged 61, She y^e 18th of Oct., 1711, aged 49. And his monument was of pious gratitude erected by Mr. Robt. Cubberly.”

Croft
A.D. 1706.

Croft
A.D. 1711.

On three brass plates on the ground floor between the seats on the north side of the nave, are the following inscriptions concerning this family, who formerly resided at Far Upton Old. The plates are not exactly in their original position, having been removed several times when the flooring and seats have been altered and repaired.—

“M. S. Francisci Martyn de Upton Old, armigeri. Qui cum negotio mercatorio apud Londinates, felici industriâ, honestate verè insigni, per aliquot incubuisset annos, secessit seculo: et huc in patriam reversus ut ad aeterna tempestivè se accingeret. Inter bona quæ fecit opera, perpetuum centum librarum redditum posterorum beneficio in hâc parochiâ piè dedit, et a posteris inviolabile perpetuo etiam sibi dari hoc sepulchrum obnixè obtestatur. Hujus voti et amoris ergo monumentum hoc mæstissima sua conjux Elizabetha posuit. Obiit an. ætat. 75. An. Dom. 1713.”

Martyn
A.D. 1713.

(TRANSLATED.)

Sacred to the memory of Francis Martyn, Esq., of Upton Old. Who having been industriously and honourably engaged for many years in commercial pursuits with London merchants, went abroad for a time; and returned hither to his country to make timely preparation for eternity. Among other good works which he performed, he piously gave for the benefit of posterity in this parish the interest of £100 for ever, and he

¹ The date in the Register is Feb. 29th.

earnestly entreats that this tomb may likewise for ever be inviolably preserved for him by posterity. From devotion and love to him, his most sorrowful wife Elizabeth has erected this monument. He died in the 75th year of his age, in the year of our Lord 1713.¹

Martyn
A.D. 1727.

The 2nd brass plate has this inscription:—"In memory of Mrs. Ann Martyn youngest daughter of Francis late of Upton Old in this parish, Esq^{re}. by Elizabeth his third wife. Whose early death on the 6th of May, in the year of our Lord 1727, and the 24th year of her age, was generally lamented.² As an instance of her pious and charitable disposition, she gave by her last will the sum of fifty pounds for the use of the poor children of this town. The interest thereof yearly to be apply'd in teaching them to read and write, and instructing them in the principles of the Christian religion."

The 3rd brass plate: Coat of arms now nearly obliterated: on a bend cottised three Cinquefoils, in chief an annulet; impaling two bars between three mullets.

(INSCRIPTION.)

Martyn
A.D. 1748.

"Here lye deposited the remains of Elizabeth, Relict of Francis Martyn Esq^{re}. of Upton Old. She departed this life on the 9th of May, 1748, aged 82."³

Mural tablet just over the pulpit:—

Saunders
A.D. 1771.

"To the memory of Erasmus Saunders, D.D., vicar of this parish, who by the piety as well of his life, as writings, endeavoured to promote religion and virtue. And who by his prudence in secular affairs improved the value of this living. His eldest son Erasmus, D.D., erected this Honorary Monument, A.D., 1771."

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- 1 From the parish Register it appears that the above named Francis Martyn was buried at Blockley on the 18th May, 1713.
 - 2 From the parish Register it appears that Anna. (not Ann as above) Martyn was buried at Blockley on May 10th, 1727,
 - 3 The burial of Elizabeth Martyn appears in the Register as having taken place on May 14th, 1747. See explanation of this apparent discrepancy post.

[Dr. Saunders, vicar of Blockley, died in 1724. He was married at Blockley in 1714.]

Arms : sable, a chevron ermine between thre bull's heads caboshed argent, for Saunders.

On a white marble tablet in memory of Rev. Wm. Boughton, vicar. Inscription: "In memory of the Rev. Wm. Boughton, M.A., formerly of Oriel Col., Oxford, and thirty six years vicar of this parish. He died the 31st July, 1831, aged 62."

Boughton
A.D. 1831.

The same tablet also records the death of "Ann Boughton his sister who departed this life 3rd day of March, 1834, aged 62."

Boughton
A.D. 1834.

There is also a small brass on the floor of the nave (removed from its original position), bearing this inscription:—"Hic jacet Gulielmus Boughton, M.A., Clericus, Quendam hujus loci Vicarius. Obiit pridie Calend Aug. A.D. MDCCCXXXI.

etatis LXII."

On a Tablet of white marble:—

"Sacred to the memory of John Wintle, Esqr., of Newnham, Gloucestershire, whose death was awfully sudden at Bourton, in the same County, the 1st March, 1832, aged 70 years."

Wintle
A.D. 1832.

"Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24 chap., 42 ver.

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." 1 St. John, 5 chap., 1 ver.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3 chap., 36 ver.

"His only surviving child Caroline Wintle, erects this tablet as a tribute of respect, to the memory of her affectionate and beloved father, whose remains are deposited in the vault of his brother in law, the Rev. Wm. Boughton. In the same vault lie also the remains of the above named Caroline Wintle, who departed this life at her residence, Cambray Place, Cheltenham, the 10th day of December, 1843, aged 53 years."

Wintle
A.D. 1843.

Over South Door:—

Sperry
A.D. 1833.

"Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth eldest daughter of James and Elizabeth Sperry, who departed this life March 15th, 1833, aged 21 years, and lies interred in a vault in this churchyard with Charles and Harriet Sperry."

Sperry
A.D. 1861.

"Also of James Sperry, father of the above, who died March 26th, 1861, aged 78 years:—

Sperry
A.D. 1873.

"And Elizabeth Sperry, his widow (daughter of Charles Cooke, Esq., of the Green, Stockton, Worcestershire,) who died Feb. 18th, 1873, aged 83 years.

"Both lie interred with their children."

"Lovely and pleasant in their lives,"

"In Christ shall all be made alive."

North Aisle

A mural monument of marble supported by Corinthian pillars, with the effigy of a man in armour kneeling under an arch.

Childe
A.D. 1801.

Arms: on three escutcheons; 1st Gules, a chevron ermine, between three eaglets close argent, for Childe: 2nd Childe:—impaling, argent, a lion rampant purple, crowned or, for Foliot.¹ 3rd Childe:—impaling, argent, a chevron between three scaling ladders sable, for Jeffereys.¹

Crest: On a wreath argent and gules, a dove open argent with a snake twining about her neck and body.

The following is the inscription which is now scarcely legible:—

"Marmora me lugent frustra lachrymosa sopitum;
Marmora perrumpam stellantia sidera adibo."

(TRANSLATED.)

In vain am I lamented in mournful marble: I shall burst through my tomb of marble, and shall enter the starry skies.

¹ Naah says there is a mistake in each of these arms. Jeffereys bears sable a lion rampant between three scaling ladders argent. And Foliot bears argent a lion queue fourche purple.

"Dum vixi in terris vitam fœliciter actam,
 Consului Patriæ; cœlis jam consulo Christum.
 Pacis eram custos; pacis memor usque Parentis;
 Pacis et eternæ unde me donaverit author.
 Bis vice et ipse comes fuerim sub Principe Elisa
 Sum choro in angelico comes halleluia canentium."

(TRANSLATED.)

While I lived on earth a life well spent, I counselled for my country's good; now in heaven I ask counsel of Christ. I was a guardian of the peace, ever mindful of the Father of peace; whence the author of eternal peace has pardoned me. Twice, too I was honoured at the hand of the Princess Elizabeth; now I am honoured in the angelic choir of those who sing Hallelujah.

Gulielmus Childe, Filius et hæres Gulielmi Childe, armigeri, defuncti, religiose posuit 1615."

(TRANSLATED.)

William Childe, son and heir of William Childe, Esq., deceased, piously erected this monument, 1615.—

[There is now no trace to be found on this monument of the name of the person in whose memory it was erected. Nash says that over the head of the figure there was this inscription:—"Gulielmus Chylde, armiger, 2 Novemb., A.D. 1601, ætatis 80." No name is visible now; but from the parish Register it appears that William Childe was buried on the 2nd November, 1601.]

At the extremity of the north aisle, on the south wall is a handsome alabaster monument supported by marble pillars, and containing the effigies of a man and woman in a kneeling posture, in the dress of the times.

Arms: Childe.

Above the effigies is the text, "Returne unto thy rest O my soule, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee."

Under the figure of the woman the inscription is as follows: "Hic requiescit secundum Dni adventum fœliciter expectans Elizabetha, uxor

Childe
A.D. 1622.

charissima Gulielmi Childe, Ar: una filiarum Gulielmi Babington, Militis de Kiddington in Com: oxon. Quæ post 46 annos in conjugio fidelissime expletos, obiit 9 die Novembris Anno Dni 1622, ætatis suæ 64."

(TRANSLATED.)

Here reposes joyfully awaiting the second Advent of the Lord Elizabeth, the most beloved wife of William Childe, Esq., one of the daughters of Sir William Babington, of Kiddington in the county of Oxford. Who after 46 years spent in wedlock most faithfully, died on the 9th day of November in the year of our Lord 1622, in the 64th year of her age.

Childe.
A.D. 1633.

Under the figure of the man: "Hic requiescit secundum Dni adventum fœliciter expectans Gulielmus Childe, Ar: qui (dum vixit) amicus fuit et hospitalis piis et honestis: promissis constans, inopia laborantibus misericors, et opem ferens. Obiit 9 die Decembris, Anno Dni: 1633 ætatis suæ 80mo."

(TRANSLATED.)

Here reposes William Childe, Esq., joyfully awaiting the second Advent of the Lord. Who, through life, was the kind friend of the religious and just; faithful to his word; compassionating the necessities of the hard working, and giving them assistance. He died the 9th day of December, 1633, in the 80th year of his age.

In the north aisle is another mural monument of marble in which is the effigy of a woman reclining at full length.

Arms: Childe: impaling, azure on a fess wavy argent; a cross patèè Gules, in chief two estoiles or, for Jenkinson.

Above the figure is this inscription:—

Childe
A.D. 1659.

"Epitaphium fecit ipsa paulo ante obitum qui accidit 11 die Feb; 1659.

(TRANSLATED.)

She herself composed this epitaph a short time before her death, which took place the 11th day of February 1659.

EPITAPH.

"Whilst livinge I, religion was my guide,
 By which an humble minde I gayn'd, avoyded pride;
 This taughte me to descry of sinne those deadly rockes,
 And shewed me what it was to love y^e poore man's box.
 It made me curteous to my frends, and such assurance gave,
 That my deportements all were deemed just and grave.
 Oh! how seasoned was my soule with heaven's kind lookes,
 When I comparinge was with text my godly bookes:
 And more my comfort was by odds, cause none stood by
 My meditations to survey, but Jesus Christ and I.
 These comforts and these graces all, with many more were mine.
 Let me thy sampler be, all these, and many more are thine.
 My children ^{en} 7, in Heaven's high name, this last I speake to you,
 Religion will protect you all; take my worde tis true.
 But from these counsels mine, if like y^e sluggard you depart,
 Both Heaven and earth will surely jeyne, and make you smart."

(UNDERNEATH.)

"In memory of Anne Mary, daughter to Sr. Robert Jenkinson of
 Walcott, in the county of Oxon, Kt., and wife to Tho. Childe, Esq., of
 Northwicke, in y^e county of Worcester, positum est."

At the east end of the north aisle is a marble monument of three
 compartments; two of which are finished with pediments, and the middle
 one with a pyramid. On these are arranged the busts of Sir James
 Rushout, Bart., Lady Alice Rushout (his wife), by Moore; Elizabeth
 Countess Dowager of Northampton, by Rysbrack; Lady Ann Rushout,
 and of Sir John Rushout, Bart:—

IN THE FIRST COMPARTMENT,—(to the right).—

Arms: Rushout; impaling Barry, of six or and azure, in chief three
 mullets of the second, for Pitt.

"Sr. James Rushout of Northwick, Bart, His Majesty's Ambassador

Sir James
 Rushout
 A.D. 1693.

Lady Rushout
A.D. 1698.

to Constantinople, was born 1644, died 1698, and Alice Pitt his wife, the only child of Edmond Pitt, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, in Middlesex Esq., was born 1651, died 1698." 1

IN THE MIDDLE COMPARTMENT.

Arms: on a lozenge ensigned with an Earl's coronet, for Compton; impaling Rushout. Motto: je: ne que: ung serche.

Countess
Dowager of
Northampton.
A.D. 1750.

"The Right Hon. Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Northampton, third daughter of Sir James Rushout and Alice his wife, was born 1683, died 1750. All are deposited in an adjoining vault."

IN THE THIRD COMPARTMENT.

Arms: Rushout: impaling, sable, a lion passant or, between three helmets argent, garnished or, for Compton.

Sir John
Rushout
A.D. 1775.
Lady Rushout
A.D. 1766.

"The Right Hon. Sir John Rushout, Treasurer of his Majesty's Navy, was born 1685, died 1775. And the Right Hon. Lady Anne Compton his wife, fourth daughter of George, Earl of Northampton, and one of the best of women, was born 1695, died 1766."

ON GREY MARBLE MURAL TABLET.

Arms: Sable, two lions passant within a border engrailed or, on a canton. The arms of Ulster, for Rushout;—impaling, argent, a Frett sable, and a Canton Gules, for Vernon.

Sir James
Rushout
A.D. 1706.

"Sir James Rushout, Bart., and Arabella his wife, daughter of Sir

1 It may be as well to explain an apparent discrepancy between several of the dates on the monuments and the dates in the Parish Register. According to the Register the above Lady Alice Rushout, and Sir James, were buried, the former on Feb., 17th, and the latter on Feb., 24th, 1697, whereas the monument records their deaths in 1698. This discrepancy arises from the old custom of reckoning the year in the Parish Register not from January to December, but from Easter to Easter. So that according to the civil year, the above Sir James and his wife died (as the monument records) in 1698; according to the parochial year, they died in 1697, their deaths and burials having taken place before Easter 1698.

This explanatory remark will apply in several other cases, where there is an apparent discrepancy as to dates.

Thos. Vernon. Sir James born 1676, died 1705. His wife born 1679, died 1705. Sir James their Son, born 1701, died 1711."

ON THE NORTH WALL OF THE NORTH AISLE.

Arms, Rushout;—impaling Bowles, surmounted by a coronet for Northwick.

Motto: par ternis suppar.

Underneath, the figure of Religion appears to weep over an urn; while the genius of life reclining at the foot of it, extinguishes his torch.

"Sacred to the memory of the Right Hon. John Lord Northwick He married in June 1766, Rebecca youngest daughter of Humphrey Bowles, Esq., of Wanstead Grove, in Essex, by whom he left five children, He was created a peer of England in October, 1797. Died in October 1800. Beloved, Respected, and Lamented, aged 62, and of Rebecca his wife, who died October 3rd, 1818, in the 79th year of her age."

1st Lord
Northwick
A.D. 1800

Lady
Northwick
A.D. 1818.

ON A FLAT STONE.

"To the memory of George Rushout, Son of the Hon. and Rev. George Rushout, and of the Lady Caroline Rushout. He died March 4th, 1808, aged 6 months.

George
Rushout
A.D. 1808.

Sleep on sweet babe, await th' Almighty's will
Then rise unchang'd and be an angel still.'

OVER THE NORTH DOOR ON THE WALL.

Arms, argent, a chevron between three saltires raguly sable. Motto: "virtus propter se." (Virtue on its own account.)

On the base: "Credo videre bona Domini in terrâ viventium." (I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living ("Psal: 27."

THE CHURCH YARD.

"The Churchyard,—'tis the spot of ground
Which lies the two great worlds between,
The living and the dead."

(ISAAC WILLIAMS.)

One of the greatest improvements effected in this parish within the last few years has been that of enclosing the Churchyard with iron fencing,—an improvement, due to the energetic action of the present Vicar. Previously to the year 1860, the Churchyard was far from being what a consecrated Christian place of burial should be. There being a public thoroughfare for foot passengers through it, many of the graves were trampled over and injured by unthinking people on their way to and from the silk mills. But in the year 1860 it was agreed to erect an iron fencing along each side of the public footpaths. And every one who remembers the former state of the Churchyard before enclosure, must admit the value of the improvement. The work was contracted for by Mr. G. T. Herbert of Blockley, and cost about £180, provided by voluntary contributions.

There are a great number of epitaphs in the Churchyard, some of which I subjoin verbatim. There are Head-stones bearing the names and dates of the following families. Each date represents a separate interment.

HEAD-STONES ON SOUTH SIDE.

Peter Herbert, 1805. John Herbert, 1816. Halford, 1785; (with epitaph).—

"Thy rest gives me a restless life
Because thou wast a matchless wife."

John Figgures, 1781. Wheatcroft, 1818. Hodges, 1826. Handey, 1710. Clark, 1748. Westmacott, 1854. Bearcroft, 1839. Davies, 1665. Miles, 1801, 1812. Fletcher, (Honeybourne) 1844. Robins, 1789. Robert Robins, 1719, aged 72, and Elizabeth Robins, 1772, aged 68. [From these dates it appears that Elizabeth Robins was left a widow at the age of 15.]—
epitaph:—

"Hold, hasty reader don't pass by,

But turn in here and learn to die;
 For here thou often may'st be told,
 How to be happy in this world.
 And whether thou be wise or not,
 To die e'er long must be thy lot.
 It is not wealth but goodness then
 That will make the happiest men."

(The above is inscribed on a tablet let into the exterior wall of the church.) Mansell, 1770, 1794, 1814, 1825. Jones, 1800, epitaph:—

"Farewell vain world I've known enough of thee
 I care not what thou hast to say to me,
 Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,
 My cares are past, my head lies quiet here.
 What faults you've seen in me, be sure to shun
 And look at home—enough there's to be done."

Clark (Chipping Campden) 1815. Stephen White, 1829, (40 years Schoolmaster at Aston.) "Those who knew him best, esteemed him most."
 Bradley, 1758, 1769. Charlwood, 1710. (epitaph on foot-stone.)

"Weep not for me 'tis in vaine,
 Weep for your sins and them refraine,
 For here I ly free from all pain
 Till Christ shall raise me up againe."

Mace, 1844, 1845, 1850, 1858. Wells, 1763, 1825. Meadows, 1704.
 Camden, 1817. Kempson, 1870. Gibbs, 1804. (with this epitaph.)—

"O cruel death that could not be deny'd,
 That broke the bonds of love so lately ty'd,
 Let us suppose none can repent too soon,
 I found it night before I thought it noon."

Davis, 1855. Beezley, 1815. (with epitaph.)—

"No doctors' skill, nor friends' good will,
 My life they could not save,
 God said I must return to dust
 Within this silent grave."

Beezley, 1818. Hartwell, 1758. Purser, 1819. Nichols, 1864.
 Luckett, (Dorn), 1785, (daughter of William and Elizabeth) aged 12 years.
 "Also lieth ten more of their children who died in their infancy."—

"Here ¹ aleven sweet children smile in death's embrace
 Not one distorted feature in their face,
 Lovely in life, in death did so remain,
 Free from all guilt, insensible of pain.
 No cares disturb, no troubles now oppress,
 Their guiltless hearts are now at rest.
 The mortal part on earth is left alone
 The better's gone t'enjoy the heavenly Throne,
 To meet the first reward to virtue due,
 Hop'd for by many, but deserv'd by few.
 Consider parents, tho' your loss be great,
 That everlasting pleasures on them wait,
 That in full hopes of bless without alloy
 They've left this world of woe for one of joy.
 Lament not therefore, nor your loss bemoan
 Since God that lent us now has paid his own."

Luckett, 1791, 1793. Keyte, 1806. Roberts, 1868. Roberts,
 (Paxford) 1864. Neason, 1864. Mayo, 1866, and Neason, 1870. Minchin,
 1806, 1827, 1832, Etheridge, 1776, 1780. (With epitaph.)—

"When I was young and in my prime
 The Lord was pleas'd to end my time.
 Prepare for death, make no delay
 For soon you may be called away.
 I am from mother and sisters dear
 And all relations gone ;
 I hope the Lord will save my soul
 Because He took me young."

Etheridge, 1801, Eastbury, 1817. Wm. Smith, 1848. Day, 1815,
 1826, 1846. John Smith, 1847. Keen, 1809. (With epitaph.)—

¹ Thus spelt on the stone.

“Prepare thyself for death
The Lord can only tell,
I had not time myself
To bid my friends farewell.”

Gilson, 1776, 1809, 1816. Lloyd, 1785.

FLAT TOMBS, SOUTH SIDE.

Troupe, 1873. Sperry, 1825, 1829, 1833, 1861, 1873. Slatter, (Paxford,) 1858, 1861, 1870. Smith, 1860, and Banbury, 1867. Westmacott, 1829, 1848, 1865. Mansell, 1855. and Beavington, 1839, 1862. Penson, (Draycott,) 1854, 1862. Penson, 1859. Penson, 1870.

ENCLOSED HEAD-STONES, SOUTH SIDE.

Troup, 1838, and Smith, 1847, 1853, 1870, Smith, (Rock Cottage,) 1829, 1837, 1837, 1858, 1866, 1873.

ENCLOSED TOMBS, SOUTH SIDE.

Whatcott, 1735, 1773, 1786, 1789, (on same Tomb,) Roberts, 1830, 1834. Westmacott, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1844, 1856. Wilkes, 1720, 1721, 1724, 1728, 1769, 1804. Roberts, 1797, 1800, 1812, 1815, 1821, 1845, and Marshall, 1837. Pengree, (Upton Wold,) 1772.

HEAD-STONES, EAST.

Dowsell, 1855, 1870. Dowsell, 1789, 1794. Brain, 1802, 1802, 1823. Hobbs, 1770, 1799, 1803. Hobbs, 1819, 1830, 1858. Phillips, 1746, 1764. Wheatcroft, 1729. Wheatcroft, 1799. Heavens, 1786, 1789.

Head-stone with no name, with this inscription,)—"Memento mori, remember to dye, erected by his Son, R.F. 1719." Minchin, 1773, 1787 1800. Dyde, 1781, Dyde, 1778, 1779. Dyde, 1770, with epitaph.—

“Live well, die never,
Die well, and live for ever.”

Marshall, 1784, 1802, 1802, 1809. Marshall, (Aston Magna,) 1769, 1775. Smith, 1808, and Camden, 1808, with epitaph:—

“Repent in time, your lives amend,

For death will come your lives to end.
 See you always prepared be,
 That sudden death surprise not thee."

Camden, 1789, 1798. Gill, 1850, 1869. Adams, 1869. Marshall, 1849, 1864. Marshall, 1835, 1849, 1857. Marshall, 1803, 1806, 1832, 1867. Fisher, 1812, 1817. Hancock, 1787, 1793, with epitaph:—

" Good was her life, and happy her end,
 Loving to her parents, and faithful to her friend,
 Void of malice, free from pride,
 So she lived, and so she died."

Hancock, 1793. Marshall, 1817, 1817. Webb, 1847. Powell, 1799, 1805, 1811, 1811. Harris, 1829, 1846, 1850. 1852, 1863. Powell, 1829, 1846, 1809.—" Man giveth up the ghost, and where is he" ?

FLAT TOMBS, EAST.

Wheatcroft, (Ditchford,) 1806, 1836. Wheatcroft, (Ditchford,) 1781, 1783. Wheatcroft, (Draycott,) 1853, 1859. Pengree, 1768, 1769, 1782. Marshall, 1862. Phillips, 1842, 1849. 1857, 1860, (on same tomb).—Dunn, 1828, and Hicks, 1844. Coling, 1855, 1869.

ENCLOSED TOMBS, EAST.

Loveland, 1866. Phillips, 1795, 1806. Phillips, 1808, 1817, 1823, 1851. "H. C. B." 1846. Franklin, 1795, 1812. Franklin, 1786, 1787, 1796, 1836, (on the same tomb).—Bowhay, 1845, and Russell, 1858: also head-stones enclosed with rails, Franklin, 1804, 1819, 1825, and Hiron, 1857.

HEAD-STONES. NORTH SECTION, (adjoining Church.)

Long, 1712, with epitaph:—

" Near to this place do lye
 Ten pretty babes of sweet infancy,
 Which only came into the world and cried
 To be baptized from their sins and died.
 And Walter Long, their father lyeth here,

A loving husband and father dear.
 The frowns of men he did never fear
 But still a hart of charity did bear."

He departed this life June 12th, 1712, aged 60 years."

Webb, (Paxford,) 1861. Williams, 1710, 1715, 1715. Hopkins, 1826, 1831, 1845, 1849. Hopkins, 1868. 1869. Joyce, 1713. Sorrell, 1709. Leigh, 1800. Leigh, 1796. Robins, 1748. Martin, 1818. Pickering, 1831, 1851, 1848.—(flat tomb).—Sollis, 1848.

NORTH EAST SECTION.

Ballinger, 1853, 1860. Long, Thos. (no date,) Lane, 1866, 1867. Herbert, Henry, 1870. Herbert, John, 1859, and Herbert, Harriet, 1867. Figgures, 1840, 1840. Read, 1790. Robins, 1769. Long, 1802, 1819. Beezley, 1812, 1816, (with epitaph).—

"How vain is flattery on a tomb
 Since there's a judgment yet to come.
 His end and his alone is blest
 Whose life and actions stand that Test."

Patterson, (Northwick), 1778. Humphriss, 1849, also Payne, 1849, 1853. Wells, 1867. Fletcher, 1838. Wheatcroft, 1851, 1865. Harris, 1801, (with epitaph).—

"Oh! what avails the falling tear,
 Nothing but earth and dust lie here.
 Lament for what thou'st done amiss
 For thou must surely come to this."

Adams, 1867, 1873. Hows, 1853, 1864. Gregory, 1864, also Butler, 1874. Durham, 1731, 1772, also Smith, 1801. Beal, (Draycott,) 1868. Partridge, (formerly pupil teacher in girls' school,) 1868. Wheeler, 1869. Tranter, 1866. Jewell, 1871.

TOMBS.

Pike, 1864, 1870. Pickering, 1839, 1854, 1868. Pickering, 1860. Smith, 1816, 1847.

HEAD-STONES. NORTH WEST SECTION.

Figgures, 1872. Ball, 1859. Mullins, 1861. Sharp, 1775. Roberts, 1721, 1761. Trapman, (Sezincote) 1762. Trotman, 1781, (with epitaph).—

“Tired with wandering through a world of sin
Hither we come to Nature’s common Inn,
Death lays us down from sin and pain
We live to die, and die to live again.”

Mace, 1851, 1853. Mayland, 1853. Sharp, (Paxford,) 1834, 1838, 1850, 1858, 1859, 1866, (on back of stone,) 1786, 1792, 1801, 1830. Smith, (formerly schoolmistress,) 1870. Baldwin, 1787, 1822, 1843. Baldwin, 1830, 1830, 1831. Harwood, 1869. Wallington, 1816, 1833, 1846. Wallington, 1784. Waters, 1835, 1847. Brodia, 1678, 1704. Mace, 1846, 1851. Taplin, 1861, 1868. Fox, 1742. Adams, 1776, 1785, 1802, 1803, (with epitaph).—

“All you what pass us by
As you are now so once was I,
As we are now so must you be
Therefore prepare to follow we.”

Churn, 1747, 1767, 1777. Day, 1873. Phipps, 1870. Middleton, 1850. Bryan, 1759. Clark, 1780. Cotterell, 1811. Keen, 1754. Taylor, 1784, 1833, 1836. Blackford, 1849. (enclosed tomb.) Roberts, (Paxford,) 1782, 1797. (flat tombs.) Figgures, 1828, 1835. And two old ones, names and dates worn away.

RECTORS AND VICARS OF BLOCKLEY.

The following list is copied from the Parish Register, (which commences with the year 1538,) where it appears to have been inserted for the sake of preservation by the Rev. Dr. Erasmus Saunders, Vicar of Blockley in 1722. He received it from a friend of his, Brown Willis, Esq., as is shown by this inscription at the head of the list:—

“Anno Domini 1722 et 12mo die Martii Ego Erasmus Saunders,
Parochiæ hujus Vicarius hunc prædecessorum meorum vicariorum catalogum

[This Dr. Wilson was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He had been an exile at Frankfort. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he returned to his native country, and was appointed a prebendary in the 7th stall of Worcester Cathedral (1560,) and Chaplain to Bishop Sandys, who had also been in exile at the same time in Frankfort. In the famous synod assembled at Westminster, Jan. 1562.-3, to complete the restoration of the Reformed Church of England, he was chosen by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester one of their proctors. He was appointed Dean of Worcester by the Queen (1571), which office he held to the time of his death (July 1586). He was appointed to the living of Blockley about the year 1572, to the poor of which parish he left the sum of £40. He was buried in the Dean's Chapel of the Cathedral.¹ The following is a copy of the inscription on his tomb-stone:—

“Here lyeth buried Thomas Wilson, Doctor of Divinity, late Dean of this Cathedral, who married Dorothy the daughter of Robert Bannister, Esq., by whom he had five sons and fower daughters. He departed this life the 10th of July, 1586, in the 28th of Queene Elizabeth her gracious Raigne, when he had been Dean of this Church full 15 years.”²]

Henricus Daniel institutus fuit 8 Aug: ... 1586.

Georgius Durant institutus fuit Mar: ... 1627.

hic per rebelles ejectus et huic fuit success^r. Egidius (Giles) Collier.

[Mention is made in the account given of the Collier family, of the ejection of this Mr. Durant from the living of Blockley at the time of the Great Rebellion. But in order to explain fully the circumstances under which he was ejected, reference must be made to history. All readers of history are aware that during the reigns of Elizabeth, James I, and Charles I, those persons who were extreme Protestants, on account of their professed purity assumed to themselves the name of Puritan. The historian Collier says that they “called themselves pure, though their doctrines were so impure as to lead them on to the murder of their arch-bishop and their King.”]

¹ Chambers' Biographical Illustrations of Worcestershire. p. 69.

² Thomas' Survey of Worcester Cathedral.

Whilst the Puritans were in the temporary possession of power, they defaced the noblest edifices of the land, in effect closed the Universities, and annihilated learning, and inflicted the most cruel hardships on many thousands of families, among whom were to be found some of the wisest and best men that our country can boast of, both in Church and State. The English clergy were especial objects of persecution. Seven thousand of them having refused to take the covenant at the Great Rebellion, were ejected from their livings, their places being supplied by Dissenting teachers.¹ Amongst those ejected we find the above George Durant, Vicar of Blockley. The treatment he received is thus described: "he was dispossess'd by a party of horse who dragged his children (whereof he had then ten living and most of them very young) out of doors; and the neighbours out of charity put them into a poor cottage in the same town and relieved them, where a sister of the ejected minister was put to nurse them; for their own mother died a little before. He was also once plundered of his horse, by a fellow who had formerly lived with him, but was then gone into the Parliament service. Mr. Durant died, if I mistake not, under the Usurpation. When he was ejected, one Mr. G. Colliere was thrust upon the parish, who afterwards became very active in dispossessing others of the Loyal Clergy; tho' he conformed and kept the living upon the King's Return."² At the Restoration, all those persons who had (as above mentioned) been put into possession of Church livings, were called upon either to conform to the regulations of the Church, or resign. Of all the Puritan clergy then in possession only 2000 out of the 7000 thought fit to resign rather than conform. And these 2000 resigned, not what they had a right to, but what they had usurped. Five thousand conformed and still retained possession of the Church property, so that many of the previously ejected clergy of the Church of England, who hoped at the Restoration to be restored to their own, were sorely disappointed and cruelly used.³

Among the conformists was Mr. Giles Collier who had been put into the living of Blockley, on the ejection of Mr. Durant. The appointment of

¹ Collier's History.

² Walker's sufferings of the Clergy.—Folio (1714) 2nd part. page 234

³ Collier's History.

Mr. Collier is recorded in the parish register as follows :

¹ Egidius Collier imprimis per sequestrationem, A.D. 1653.

deinde per collationem 19 Dec. ... 1660.

[Mr. Giles Collier "was" a native of this county, and was the son of Giles Collier of Pershore, where he was born in 1622, or at least in Worcestershire. He became either a battler or a servitor at New Inn, Oxon, in Lent term 1637, took the degree of B.A., and left college for a time, and went over to the Presbyterians. In 1648, when the Parliamentary visitors were in Oxon, he proceeded in Arts, took the covenant, and afterwards became vicar of Blockley, near Evesham, and of Shipston, both in this county, (Worcester) and became an active man as assistant to the commissioners of Worcestershire for the ejection of such whom the Puritans called 'scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient Ministers and Schoolmasters,'—about the year 1654.

At his Majesty's Restoration he continued in Blockley ; and when the Act of Uniformity was published, he conformed : not without the regret of some loyalists in the neighbourhood whom he had much displeased in the interval. He died at Blockley the latter end of July 1678, and was buried in the church there. He was the author of *Vindiciæ Thesium de Sabbato &c. Appendix* to ditto, wherein he briefly examined the assertion of Bishop Fisher, viz :—there is an equal authority and equal antiquity for the observation of the 25th of December as for the Lord's day. *Answer to 15 questions lately published by Edward Fisher, Esq ; and the suggestions therein delivered against suspended, ignorant, and scandalous persons from the Lord's Supper : and a Funeral Sermon.* (Vide Wood's *Athenæ*)."²]

³ Franciscus Phipps fuit ejus Successor et resignavit vicriam 1681.

Samuel Scattergood, A.M. collatus fuit 17 Nov : ... 1681.

Tho. Turner, A.M. collatus fuit Jan : 17 ... 1696.

¹ Buried at Blockley.

² Chambers' *Biographical Illustrations of Worcestershire* . p. 207.

³ Appointed 1678.

Gulielmus Lloyd, D.D., June coll : 1700¹

[I presume this was the same Dr. Wm. Lloyd, who was prebendary of Worcester 1714, and also Chancellor of this Diocese.¹]

Erasmus Saunders, D.D. 1705.

[In Blockley parochial Register, Dr. Saunders is stated to have died on the 1st of June, 1724, at Aberbechan, Montgomeryshire; Buried in St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, June 5th. Through the kindness of the Rev. Thomas B. Lloyd, Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, I have obtained a copy of the inscription on the grave-stone of Dr. Saunders. At the time of his death he appears to have been staying with his wife's relatives, the Lloyds of Aberbechan, several of whom are buried in St. Mary's Church. The inscription is in Latin, and is as follows :—

"*Memoriæ sacrum Erasmi Saunders, S. Th., Professoris, Qui propter consummatam ejus eruditionem ab optimis doctissimis præsulibus Gulielmo Lloyd Episcopo Vigornienti et Georgio Bull Episcopo Menevensi, egregiis istis Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ ornamentis, in magno habitus est pretio. Ab illo igitur ad vicariam de Blockley in comitatu Vigorn: ubi fuit in curâ animarum administranda fidelis indefessus felix, ab hoc ad præbendam in ecclesia Christi collegiata apud Brecon, admotus est. In matrimonio habuit Dorotheam Humph: Lloyd de Aberbechan in com: Montgom: arm: filiam ex qua septenam sobolem suscepit. Natus est Clyddeiæ in comit: Pembr: Enutritus in coll: Jesu apud Oxonienses. Apoplexia correptus in sinu dilectissimæ conjugis animam afflavit Die 1. Jun: Ann: Salutis 1724. ætatis suæ 53.*"

(TRANSLATED.)

Sacred to the memory of Erasmus Saunders, Professor of Theology, who on account of his excellent learning was held in great esteem by those most worthy and most learned men, who were distinguished ornaments of the Christian Church, William Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester, and George Bull, Bishop of St. David's. By the former he was presented to the Vicarage of Blockley, where, in his ministrations and care of souls, he was

¹ Chambers' Biographical Illustrations of Worcestershire.

faithful, unwearied and prosperous; by the latter he was preferred to a prebendary in the collegiate Church of Christ at Brecon. He married Dorothy the daughter of Humphrey Lloyd Esq., of Aberbechan in the County of Montgomery, by whom he had 7 children. He was born at Clyddeg in the County of Pembroke, and educated at Jesus College, Oxford. Having been seized with apoplexy, he expired on the breast of his most beloved wife on the 1st day of June, in the year of grace 1724, aged 53.]—

There is also a mural tablet to his memory in Blockley Church, just over the pulpit. (See monuments in Nave. Page 46.)

Michael Biddulph 1724.

Gulielmus Byrche, L.L.D., Cancellarius hujus Dioc., Prebendarius ecclæ Cathedr Vigorn: Rector Ecclæ Fladbury * * * inductus fuit 1728.¹

[The Rev. J. Haviland, the present Rector of Fladbury, has kindly furnished me with the date of Dr. Byrche's appointment to Fladbury, which is contained in the Parochial Register as follows:—"The Reverend and Worshipful Dr. William Byrche, Chancellour of the Diocese of Worcester was inducted into the Rectory of Fladbury, November 11th, 1719."]

The above list, many of the dates in which are almost illegible, was re-copied in the Parish Register of Blockley, Feb: 27, 1811, by the Rev. William Boughton, then vicar, who adds the following names:—

Richardus Congreve, A.M., institutus fuit 1742.

Carolus Jasper Selwyn, A.M., institutus fuit Oct. 1761.

[The Rev. C. J. Selwyn was great uncle of Dr. G. A. Selwyn who is now Bishop of Lichfield, formerly Bishop of New Zealand; of Dr. William Selwyn, now Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, and Canon of Ely; and of the late Right Hon. Sir Charles Jasper Selwyn, one of the Lords Justices in the Court of Chancery.

The Rev. C. J. Selwyn was buried in the Churchyard of Batsford. The following inscription is on the stone:—

¹ Nash and Bigland say 1727.

“ Beneath this stone
are deposited
the remains
of
The Reverend
Charles Jasper Selwyn
33 years Vicar of Blockley
in the County and Diocese of Worcester,
Rector of Beverston and Kingscott
in the County of Gloucester,
and Prebendary of Sarum,
who died the 10th day of Sept., 1794.
in the 67th year of his age.”

Close to this tomb, are those of his wife and three daughters. Until lately the graves were under a horse chestnut tree, *removed from Blockley*, the seed of which had been planted by the Rev. C. J. Selwyn. This tree however had to be cut down, as its branches were becoming injurious to the roof of the Church. The present representative of the Selwyn family is Captain Selwyn, R.N., a great grandson of the Vicar of Blockley.]

Gulielmus Boughton,¹ A.M., institutus fuit 20mo. Septembris 1794.

(See Monuments in Nave. Page 47.)

To the above may now be added, Miles Coyle, instituted 1831,
resigned 1855.

Henry Bromfield, B.A., instituted 1855.

All the names in the above list, except Dean Wilson, and excepting of course those of late date, are found in the list given by Nash in his history of Worcestershire. But the following names are recorded by him, which are not mentioned in the Parish Register list:—

Gregorius de Kayrwent, who died at Rome 1279.

¹ Buried at Blockley.

Petrus de Estcote	...	...	...	...	1294.
Bartholomeus de Terentino	...	...	...	...	1295.
Geraldus de Pristimo	...	...	...	...	1330.
Johannes de Riddlyngton	...	...	...	...	1366.
Johannes Skeffington Towker ¹	...	...	...	...	1433.
Hugo Jones	...	...	...	...	1556.
Wheeler	...	...	...	...	1742.

CURATES OF BLOCKLEY.

This list is compiled from the names recorded in the Parish Registers, and the visitation Rolls.—

	A.D.
George Wells	... 1620.
William Tymmes	... 1631.
Samuel Marshall	... 1684.
Erasmus Saunders, M.A.,	... 1702.
Francis Saunders, M.A.,	... 1724.
John Price	... 1728.
Benjamin Field, M.A.,	... 1735.
Joseph Williams ²	... 1744.
Charles Jasper Selwyn, M.A., ³	... 1753.
John Selwyn, M.A.,	... 1776.
Congreve Selwyn, M.A.,	... 1785.
Hamlet Harrison, M.A.,	... 1791.
William Matthews, B.A.,	... 1793.
William Thomas Eyre, M.A., afterwards Vicar of Padbury,	
Bucks :—	... 1820.
John D. Lloyd	... 1830-31.
Charles Spencer	... 1836-37.

¹ See Appendix to Nash.² Buried at Blockley.³ Afterwards Vicar.

William Jeans	...	...	...	...	1837-39.
George Domville Wheeler, M.A., now Vicar of Wolford, and Rector of Barcheston, Warwickshire	...	...	...	...	1839-43.
Henry J. Marshall	...	..	...	...	1843-44.
George Bayley	...	...	...	...	1844-46.
{ E. F. Chamberlayne, M.A., ¹ now Vicar of Aston Magna					1844-47.
{ Edward BurrIDGE, now Rector of Westley, near Newmarket					1846-48.
{ G. F. H. Foxton	...	...	...	...	... 1849.
{ Evan L. Davies	...	...	...	...	... 1849.
{ James Hadley, afterwards Rector of Bagthorpe, Norfolk. (deceased)	...	...	...	...	1849-51.
{ J. O. Picton	...	...	...	...	... 1850.
{ Lewis H. Coyle, B.A., (deceased)			...	...	1851-55.
{ J. P. Pearson	...	...	...	...	1851-53.
Henry Tuckwell, now Vicar of Headingley, Leeds					1854-55.
Edward Octavius Tyler, M.A., now Vicar of Portbury, Bristol	...	...	...	...	1856-59.
John R. Radcliffe, now Curate of Bilton, near Rugby					... 1857.
Henry Williams	...	...	...	...	1859-61.
Alfred Wilson Mills, M.A., now Vicar of St. Erth, Cornwall					1861-63.
Henry Fisher, now Rector of Higham-on-the-hill, Leicestershire	...	...	...	...	1864-66.
{ Alfred James Soden, formerly Curate of Kings Norton, Birmingham	...	...	...	...	... 1866.
{ Charles Marsh Eckersley Hallsworth, B.A.			...	...	... 1874.

CHURCHWARDENS OF BLOCKLEY.

This list is compiled from the entries made in the Parish Books, and on the Visitation Rolls. During the years which intervene between many

¹ Curate in charge of the hamlet of Aston Magna at that time.

of the dates, there was (I presume) no change in the appointment. I commence with the year 1604, the earliest year in which the names are found recorded in the Register.

Henry Rilye.	Robert Elmes	...	...	...	1604.
Henry.	* * * ¹	Henry Rilye	...	...	1605.
John Joyce.	Richard	* * * ¹	...	...	1606.
Richard.	* * * ¹	Robert Robins	...	...	1607.
Robert Freeman.	Thomas Harris	...	...	...	1609.
Thomas Harris.	William Dyde	...	...	...	1610.
William Dyde.	Richard Davies	...	...	...	1611.
Thomas Dyde.	William Webbe	...	...	...	1612.
William Webbe.	Thomas Widdows	...	...	...	1613.
Thomas Wacke.	William Ryely	...	...	...	1615.
Thomas Widdows.	Robert White	...	...	...	1617.
William Harris.	Thomas Longe	...	...	...	1620.
Robert Robyns.	William Riley	...	...	...	1662.
William Webb.	Robert Heyward	...	...	...	1627.
William Dide.	Thomas Widdowes	...	...	...	1630.
Robert Elmes.	John Perkins	...	...	...	1633.
John Perkins.	Arthur Fletcher	...	...	...	1634.
Arthur Fletcher.	Andrew Lydall	...	...	...	1635.
Andrew Lydall.	Thomas Freeman	...	...	...	1636.
John Warner.	Thomas Edden	...	...	...	1641.
John Warner.	Nicholas Fletcher	...	...	...	1643.
William Rily.	William Davies	...	...	...	1646. ²
Thomas Child, Esq.	Thomas Fletcher	...	...	...	1674. ²
Alfred Fletcher.	William Davies	...	...	...	1679.

¹ This name is illegible in the Parish Register.

² Between these dates I find no record of the names.

William Widdows.	John Charles	...	...	...	1682.
Robert Warner.	Robert Robbins	...	...	...	1683.
Thomas Barnes.	Robert Warner	...	...	...	1686.
Robert Warner.	Matthew Widhouse ¹	...	...	...	1687.
Edward Fletcher.	Robert Holland	...	...	...	1689.
Thomas Fletcher.	William Dye	...	...	...	1690.
Edward Freeman.	Thomas Widdows	...	...	...	1692.
Thomas Joyce.	Thomas Fletcher	...	...	...	1693.
Thomas Wake.	Timothy Harris	...	...	...	1695.
Thomas Wake.	Samuel Charles	...	...	...	1696.
Walter Long.	John Gilson	...	...	...	1698.
William Davies.	Thomas Widdows	...	...	...	1700.
Daniel Dee.	Francis Robins	...	...	...	1702.
Thomas Wilkes.	Samuel Cornmell	...	...	...	1703.
Richard Wilkes.	Samuel Cornmell	...	...	...	1704.
Thomas Hyron.	Matthew Widdows	...	...	...	1708.
Thomas Hyron.	Michael Smith (Paxford)	...	...	...	1709.
Michael Smith.	John Dawson	...	...	...	1710.
William Stait.	Thomas Walton, (Ditchford)	...	...	...	1716.
Wm. Stait.	Thomas Huggins	...	...	...	1717.
Thos. Huggins.	Chas. Elmes	...	...	...	1718.
Chas. Elmes.	John Pain (Paxford)	...	...	...	1719.
John Pain.	William Davies	...	...	...	1720.
William Davis.	Nicholas Fletcher, jun.	...	...	...	1721.
William Davis.	Thomas Cormell	...	...	...	1722.
Richard Wilkes, jun.	Francis Robins	...	...	...	1728.
Richard Wilkes, jun.	John Whatcott ²	...	...	...	1729.

¹ Probably the same name as Widdows.

² The name "Whatcott" is evidently a corruption of "Wheatcroft." The name of this Churchwarden appears in the Parish Register as "John Wheatcroft." The Rev. O. J. Selwyn in a memorandum made in the Parish Register, says "that Wheatcroft was the original spelling of the name." (See Baptisms for the year 1752.)

Thomas Smith, (Upton Wold.)	Edward Davies, (Northwick)	1730.
William Minchin.	Richard Fletcher, (Paxford)	... 1732.
John Dawson.	John Charles	... 1737.
Thomas Phillips.	Francis Wheatcroft	... 1741.
Richard Wilkes.	Francis Whatcott (or Wheatcroft)	Draycott 1742.
Richard Wilkes.	Robert Wise, (Aston)	... 1743.
Richard Wilkes.	Robert Robbins	... 1746.
Richard Wilkes.	John Bracey.	... 1748.
Richard Wilkes.	John Robbins (Aston)	... 1749.
Richard Wilkes.	Thomas Wells	... 1750.
Richard Wilkes.	William Robbins	... 1751.
Richard Wilkes.	Francis Wheatcroft	... 1752.
Thomas Wilkes.	Francis Wheatcroft	... 1755.
Edward Keen.	Robert Wise	... 1757.
John Phillips.	Richard Phillips	... 1761.
Thomas Wilkes.	Robert Robins	... 1762.
Thomas Wilkes.	William Clark	... 1764.
Thomas Wilkes.	Francis Wheatcroft	... 1765.
Thomas Roberts.	Thomas Wilkes	... 1768.
Thomas Wilkes.	John Wheatcroft (Paxford)	... 1769.
Thomas Wilkes.	Francis Wheatcroft	... 1770.
Thomas Hulls Miles.	Thomas Wilkes	... 1773.
Thomas Roberts.	Thomas Wilkes	... 1777.
John Phillips.	Thomas Wilkes	... 1778.
Joseph Harford.	John Wheatcroft	... 1779.
Thomas Wheatcroft.	William Long	... 1782.
William Long.	William Robins	... 1783.
Stephen Harris.	Wm. Long	... 1784.
Thos. Wheatcroft.	Wm. Long	... 1785.

Thos. Roberts.	Wm. Long	..	...	...	... 1792.
Wm. Gibbs.	Wm. Long	...	...	...	... 1796.
Thos. Wheatcroft.	Wm. Long	...	...	...	... 1797.
Thomas Wheatcroft.	Thomas Figgures	...	...	...	... 1802.
Thomas Roberts.	Thomas Figgures	...	...	...	... 1806.
Thomas Roberts.	W. C. Russell	...	...	...	... 1807.
Thomas Roberts.	Thomas Figgures	...	...	...	... 1811.
Thomas Fretwell.	W. C. Russell	...	...	...	... 1814.
Thomas Fretwell.	John Herbert	...	...	...	... 1821.
John Herbert	...	...	...	...	... 1822.
John Herbert.	William Phillips.	...	...	...	... 1824.
William Phillips.	Martin Westmacott	...	...	...	... 1827.
John Herbert.	William Phillips	...	...	...	... 1832.
William Phillips.	John Westmacott	...	...	...	... 1836.
William Phillips.	William Westmacott	...	...	...	... 1843.
William Phillips	John Mintorn	...	...	...	... 1850.
John F. Hiron.	William Phillips	...	...	...	... 1854.
John Herbert, Jun.	William Phillips	...	...	...	... 1857.
John Herbert, Jun.	James Slatter, (Paxford)	...	...	...	... 1858.
John Herbert, Jun.	James Slatter.	William Holtom	¹	...	... 1859.
William Holtom.	James Slatter	...	...	...	... 1860.
William Holtom.	Richard Westmacott	...	...	...	... 1862.
Samuel Haines, (Draycott).	John Herbert	...	...	...	... 1867.
Samuel Righton, (Stapenhill).	John Herbert	...	...	...	... 1871.

¹ Appointed in the place of John Herbert, resigned.

SCHOOLS.

Boys' National
School.

The founder of what is now called the Boys' National School was the Rev. Dr. Erasmus Saunders, a native of Wales, and Vicar of Blockley.

A.D. 1712. About the year 1713 he erected a house upon a piece of ground adjoining the churchyard, and assigned for the purpose by the Bishop of Worcester. This house he gave to the parish of Blockley to be used as a School; and on it he placed an inscription in Welsh, which freely translated, means "Remain and prosper." The following inscription appears on the north front of this building of which the lower portion is now used as a stable for the "Bell Inn." "Erasmus Saunders S.T.P. Vicarius Ecclesiæ, Scholam condidit A.S. MDCCXIII."

A.D. 1826.

In the year 1826, the Right Hon. John, Lord Northwick undertook to rebuild and considerably enlarge this School house, which, from its dilapidated condition, had ceased to answer the purpose of its founder Dr. Saunders. This inscription was consequently added. "Johannes Dominus Northwick, corruptam vetustate, pecuniâ suâ, ampliore formâ, auctoque cultu, adstruendam curavit. A.S. MDCCCXXVI."

"In March 1827, a master and mistress were appointed, and were permitted to reside, with the privilege of taking pay scholars. At that time there were 20 boys and 6 girls taught free, but were chargeable with all books, &c:—afterwards the School was increased to 30 boys and 20 girls."¹

A.D. 1850.

In the year 1850 the same Lord Northwick enlarged the School premises to their present size. The lower room (for the boys) is 41 feet long and 16 feet wide; the room over being extended to the same size. In this and the adjoining rooms the teaching of the girls and infants was carried on till the erection of the Schools in New Lane.

¹ The Free Schools of Worcestershire by George Griffiths.

BOYS' SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

These Bequests are contained in a Codicil (dated Sept. 25th, 1711,) to the will (dated July 9th, 1711) of Jane Croft, (widow of Edward Croft, of Northwick,) who died in Oct., 1711. They are for the benefit of "six poor children yearly that are taught in the Charity School lately erected in Blockley."

The Croft
Bequests

A.D. 1711.
£3 10s.

"I do by these presents give, devise and bequeath the summ of three pounds of lawfull money of Great Britain to Erasmus Saunders, Clerk, the present vicar of Blockley and to his successors the vicars of Blockley for the time being, for ever, and also to Michael Smith and John Dawson, the present Churchwardens and to their successors the Churchwardens of the Parish of Blockley for the time being, for ever, in trust, and to be disposed of by them to the use and purpose following, that is to say, for the cloathing of six poor children yearly, that are taught in the Charity School, lately erected in Blockley aforesaid, to continue to be disposed to that use every year for ever, which said poor children shall be chosen out of the townships of Northwick or Paxford in the said parish if any of those townships shall be found to accept of it. And for default of such, to so many of the poor children of the township of Blockley, as the said Trustees shall think convenient. Item: I give, devise and bequeath the further sum of ten shillings yearly, and every year, to the aforesaid Trustees to be laid out yearly for the buying of Bibles for the said poor children appointed as aforesaid to be cloath'd. And I do hereby charge all my enclosed grounds called Broadnams, situate in Northwick in the Parish of Blockley, in the county aforesaid, with the payment of three pounds and tenn shillings a year for ever, to the uses aforesaid, willing that the same may be paid at equall proportions at twice in the year, that is to say, on the 25th day of March and the 29th day of September, every year, by my executors in trust named in my will, during the minority of my nephew and heir Robert Cabblerley, therein also named, and by my heirs for ever. And that the said sum of three pounds and tenn shilings be paid for the charity aforesaid free from all taxes or payments whatsoever."

The will (with codicil annexed) was proved in London, May 1st, 1712.—

The lands called Broadnams upon which the above sum is charged have been for many years in the possession of the Northwick family. The present owner of the property regularly (and most fully) carries out the direction contained in the will, by providing annually coats for 8 boys at the school, and paying 10s. for the purchase of books.

**F. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1713.
£100**

Under the will of Francis Martyn Esq., of Far Upton Wold, who died in the year 1713, the sum of £100 was bequeathed towards the support of a School at Blockley¹ for the instruction of poor indigent children born within the parish. This bequest appears never to have been properly invested by the parish authorities. The interest was for many years paid by the Bird family, (descended from Francis Martyn); but through the bankruptcy of William Wilberforce Bird, Esq., then M.P. for Coventry, the interest ceased to be paid; and the principal, through the carelessness of the parish authorities in not holding any security for it, was lost.

**G. Carter's
Bequest.
A.D. 1723.
£10.**

Goddard Carter, Esq., of Alscot, in Oxfordshire, by his will dated Nov. 9th, 1723, gave "ten pounds a year out of his lands in Upton Wold to teach poor children living in the parish of Blockley to read, write, and something of arithmetick." And he further directed that the owner or owners of the aforesaid estate at Upton Wold for ever should appoint the teacher of the said children. This estate having subsequently become the property of the late Lord Northwick, he, in right of ownership appointed, in 1850, the present master, Mr. George T. Herbert, of Blockley. This annual charge of £10 is now paid by the present Lord Northwick as owner of the above estate.

¹ No doubt this was the school founded by Rev. Dr. Saunders, as it is stated in Camden's Britannia, that soon after the building of the school by the Vicar, F. Martyn, Esq., gave £100 towards the endowment of it.

More than 130 years ago, (the exact year I have not been able to trace) Mary Carter of Hither Upton Wold gave to the parish of Blockley the sum of £100, the yearly interest of which was to be laid out for "teaching poor children at Blockley, and for buying books for the poor of Blockley."

M. Carter's
Bequest.
£100.

This sum was invested by the parish officers in 1741 in building a Workhouse for the poor of Blockley. (See page 9.) The sum of £5 is annually paid (as interest for this gift of £100) to the Vicar as Trustee, of which the master of the Boys' School receives £4, and the remaining £1 is spent in the purchase of books. At this time I believe the original number of 12 boys at the school was increased to 18.

Under the will of Elizabeth Martyn (Relict of Francis Martyn, Esq.) who died in 1747, a bequest was made to the Churchwardens of Blockley for the time being, of the sum of £50, with part of the interest of which she directed that they should purchase every year a ton of coals for the use of the school. According to the entries in the parish book this purchase seems to have been regularly made for the benefit of "the School in the Church-yard."

E. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1747.
£50.

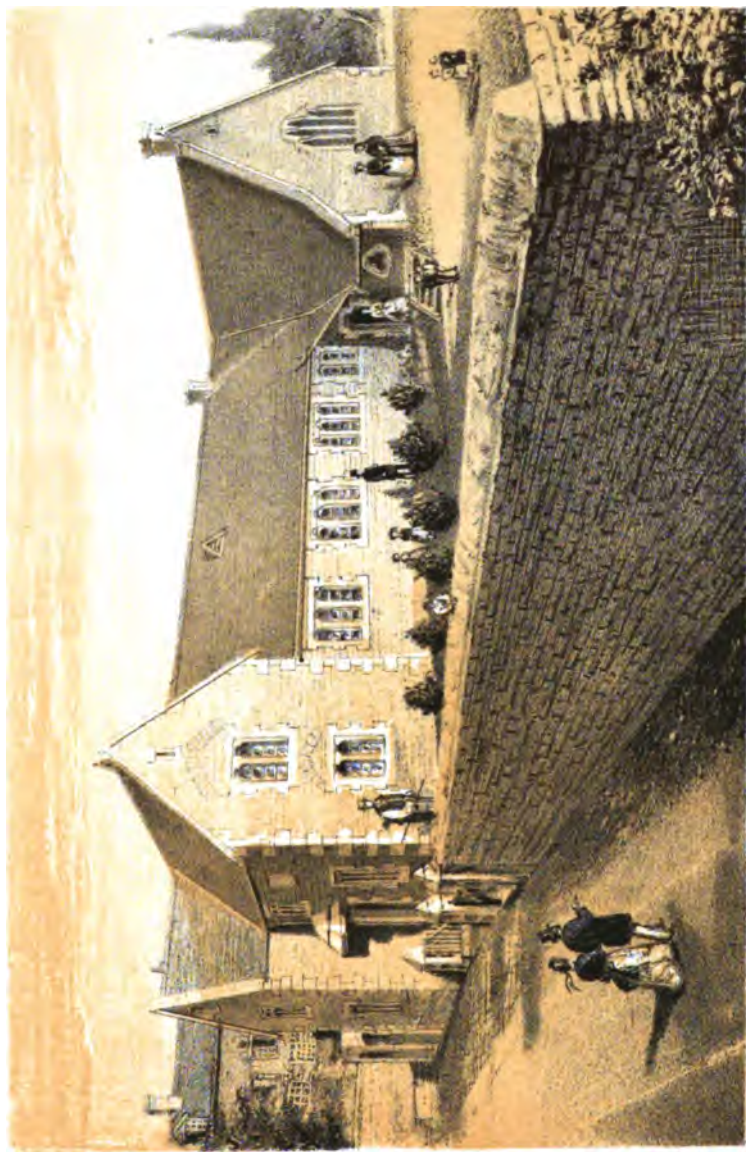
The above bequests contained the only endowments in support of the Boys' National School in Blockley, beyond a few annual subscriptions, until the late Lord Northwick at Christmas 1852 guaranteed an annual payment of £40 towards increasing the master's income, which sum he paid yearly up to the time of his death in 1859, and which also is voluntarily continued by his successor. The number of boys was further increased to 50, though this number has generally been exceeded. The number of names on the books (October 1874) is 56, and the average daily attendance for 1874 is 43. Each boy pays one penny per week. The school is not under regular Government Inspection at present, but it is not unlikely that Lord Northwick will consent to its being so placed, notwithstanding it has been pronounced in its present state *efficient*, thereby satisfying the requirements of the Education Act.

GIRLS' AND INFANTS' CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS.

Previously to the erection of the present buildings in New Lane, the church schools for girls and infants were carried on in the upper and adjoining rooms over the boys' school in the churchyard. But the Government Inspector having certified that the accommodation there was inadequate for the number of children in attendance, the Privy Council consequently gave notice that the annual grant would be withheld unless the schools were at once enlarged, or the number of children considerably reduced.

From the situation and other local impediments, it was found impracticable to enlarge sufficiently the buildings in the churchyard. Under these circumstances the late Admiral Sir Edward Collier, K.C.B., liberally gave a site in New Lane. Plans were prepared by Mr. W. Thompson, Architect, Stratford-on-Avon, and approved by the Privy Council. The erection was carried out by Mr. Henry Westmacott, Builder, &c., of Blockley, the first stone being laid by Mrs. Bromfield. The girls' schoolroom measures 50 ft. by 20: and the infants' room 36 by 20. There is also a class room 15 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft. In addition there is a good residence for the teacher, consisting of parlour, kitchen, back-kitchen, two bed rooms and bath room. The total cost inclusive of everything was £1411 3s. 0d. Towards providing the necessary funds local contributions were received amounting to £433 2s. 0d. and non-local £32. Two bazaars realized £381. The Committee of Council on Education made a grant of £303 5s. 0d; the National Society £35; the Worcester Diocesan Board of Education £80; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £10. Amongst the chief contributors to the funds were, the Earl Beauchamp £100; Lord Redesdale £108.; Sir E. Collier, the site valued at £81; Rev. H. Bromfield £60; Lord Northwick £50; T. Franklin Hiron, Esq. £15; and Henry Roberts, Esq. £10.

The schools were opened in 1867, under the superintendence of Miss Oakes (certificated) who has most efficiently conducted the girls' school for the last 8 years, assisted by 4 pupil teachers



BLOCKLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND GIRLS SCHOOL.

1872.

and a teacher for the infants. The number of children on the books (May, 1874) is 319 and the average weekly attendance is 203.¹ The school is in excellent working order, and is very favorably reported of by the Government Inspector. Subjoined is the summary of the Inspector's Report, for 1874.

"Discipline, instruction, fitness for training apprentices, and general efficiency, good. Reading, needle-work, geography and grammar are good. Dictation and arithmetic, are fair. The Infants did well in reading, very well in dictation, and very fairly in arithmetic. The mistress and her pupil teachers, have worked very hard in the past year."

The amount of Government grant for 1874, was £118. 18. 0.

GIRLS' SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

Anna Martyn (daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Martyn, of Far Upton Wold,) who died May 6th, 1727, gave by her will dated 1st May, 1727, the sum of £50 to the poor of Blockley. the interest thereof to be applied in teaching poor children to read and write, and instructing them in the principles of the Christian religion.

A. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1727.
£50.

This sum of £50 appears to have remained in the hands of the Churchwardens for many years, producing £2 a year interest, which sum the parish books show to have been regularly paid to the schoolmistress till the year 1799, for the "schooling" of six girls. But in the month of May 1799, the principal sum of £50 and also the £50 bequeathed in 1747 under the will of Elizabeth Martyn, (see page 77) were by the advice of the vicar (Revd. Wm. Boughton,) invested in the 3 per cent consols, and purchased jointly £181. 8. 1. yielding a yearly dividend of £5. 8. 10. This investment had afterwards to be changed, and at present these charity funds stand invested in the new 3 per cents, having purchased £154. 3. 11. producing a yearly dividend of £4. 12. 6.

The interest arising from this bequest of £50 to the churchwardens of Blockley, was directed to be appropriated partly in purchasing a ton of

E. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1747.
£50.

1 It is the rule at this School to strike a child's name off the Register after an absence of a fortnight, except in cases of sickness.

coals for the boys' school (see page 77) and partly in buying clothes for the poor children (as far as the same should extend) that should be educated at her daughter's (Anna Martyn's) School, (that is, the school where six girls were instructed.) The parish books show this purchase to have been regularly made; and it is continued (after the purchase of the ton of coals for the Boys' School) on behalf of girls instructed at the present Church of England Girls' School.

The amount of Elizabeth Martyn's bequest also remained for many years in the hands of the Churchwardens, producing £2 interest per annum, till invested as above mentioned by the advice of the Rev. W. Boughton. Previously to this investment the accounts show a balance due to the Churchwardens, the £4 interest being insufficient to meet the amount expended; but after the joint investment, there appears a balance on the other side. The principal now stands in the name of the "Official Trustees for Charitable Funds."

A Boughton's
Bequest.
A.D. 1834.
£200.

Miss Ann Boughton, who died March 3rd, 1834, bequeathed £200 the annual interest whereof to be applied in aid of a school for teaching eight or more poor children of the parish of Blockley, to read, write, knit and sew. She also gave the sum of £30 to meet the duty on her brother's legacy, by which amount his bequest of £300 had been lessened by the payment of legacy duty. The above sum of £200 was invested on 27th May, 1835, in the new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent annuities and produced £199. 10. stock. The sum of £30 was invested in the new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent annuities, on Oct. 24th, 1834, and produced £29. 19. stock. These charitable bequests are also invested in the name of the "Official Trustees for Charitable Funds"; and the interest is payable for the benefit of the Girls' School only.

Lucy Russell's
Bequest.
A.D. 1858.
£100.

A bequest of £100 (as also one of £200 for the poor, mentioned in the "Blockley Charities") was made by Mrs. Russell to the Blockley Church Charity School, as follows: "I give and bequeath out of my personal estate unto the Treasurer of Blockley Church Charity School, to which I am a subscriber, the sum of £100, whose receipt shall be a good discharge for the same. And I direct that such legacy shall be from time

to time invested in the (said) Parliamentary stocks or public funds in the names of the vicar of Blockley, the treasurer of the said School, and one other trustee to be appointed by them, and that the interest and dividends thereof shall be applied annually, for ever, in aid of the funds of the said school.

This, and the other bequest were each made free of legacy duty which was paid out of the residuary estate. In the year 1858, the above sum of £100 was paid by the vicar to the account of "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," by whom it was invested in the purchase of new £3 per cent annuities, pursuant to the provisions of "the Charitable Trusts Amendment Act 1855." The amount of stock purchased was £103. 7. 2. which stands in the name of "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds." This sum has been entered to the account of the "Russell" Charity in the books at the office of the Charity Commission, and the dividends £3. 2. 0. free from Income tax, are paid annually in October to the vicar as treasurer for the time being of the Blockley Church Charity (or girls,) school to which Mrs. Russell was a subscriber.

In addition to the annual income arising from the investment of the above mentioned Charitable bequests, there are also annual subscriptions amounting to £67. These, with the school pence and the government grant, make up the whole income of the school.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL.

This school was established in the year 1845. Under the provisions of the Factory act, which came into operation about that time, it is required that all children between the ages of 8 and 11, employed at silk-throwing mills, must attend school part of the day. At the above period, the silk trade was in a flourishing condition; and under the then existing circumstances, it was thought advisable by the silk throwsters, Messrs. R. Stanley, J. Smith, E. Banbury, R. Westmacott, and C. E. Smith, to provide a school for the children employed at the mills. This led to the establishment of the British school, which was first carried on in the building now used as a chapel by the Primitive Methodists. After a few years it became necessary

to provide a larger room, in consequence of which the school-room at the back of the Baptist chapel was erected.

In the year 1858, another room for the infant class and lectures was built opposite the Primitive Methodist chapel, to which the whole school was subsequently transferred, and has since been carried on.

The school was entirely in the hands of the factory owners, until 1858, when the management was extended. In May 1861, the school was placed under government inspection, the first master being Mr. Green, who shortly afterwards resigned through ill health, and was succeeded by Mr. F. G. Smith, who very ably discharged the duties of master until March 1866. At this time owing to long continued bad trade, the then factory owners withdrew from farther responsibility, and the school as then constituted was dissolved.

A new committee was appointed, under whose management the school has since been carried on.

Amount of government grant, 1872, £36. 5. 5.

Average attendance „ 73.

No. on register, (May and June 1873,) 102 to 120.

Owing to untoward circumstances the school committee have since been compelled to close the school.

**Sunday
Schools.**

In addition to the above mentioned day schools, there are also three Sunday schools, two being church, and the other nonconformist.

**Evening
Schools.**

There are also two night schools during the winter months, (i.e. from November to March,) for boys and girls. The former is carried on three evenings in the week, in the upper school-room in the churchyard, and is under the superintendence of the curate of the parish. The Code regulations exclude it from Government inspection. The latter is conducted in the girls' school in New lane, and is under the nominal superintendence of Miss Oakes, who being the holder of a Government certificate, qualifies the school for Government inspection and grant.

BLOCKLEY CHARITIES.

This bequest was made by George Townsend, Esq. under his will dated Dec. 14th, 1682, and consisted of an annual charge of £25 on certain lands and tenements in Wormington, Winchcomb, and Nether Guyting, for apprenticing poor boys, able to read. The will commences as follows

“In the name and fear of God, and in great thankfulness for His manifold goodness unto me, I, George Townsend, of Lincoln’s Inn, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, being in good health at the present, considering the uncertainties and casualties of man’s life, and my present age and infirmities, and being desirous to be at quiet in the time of any sickness, which it may please God to send me: revoking all former wills, make and ordain this my last will and testament as followeth.—First I commend my soul to God my Maker, and my body to the earth in assured hopes of pardon for my sins, and resurrection to eternal life by the mercies of God, through the merits of Jesus Christ my Redeemer.” Then follow many bequests, and amongst them is the above mentioned one: “And I will and appoint that twenty and five pounds yearly be laid forth for the binding and putting forth of five poor boys, able to read, to be apprenticed, whereof I appoint one to be of each of the towns of Winchcomb, Northleach, Campden, and Cheltenham, aforesaid, and the fifth to be of Nether Guyting aforesaid, or Blockley in the county of Worcester, and if so many be not found fitting there, then of poor boys out of other places at the discretion of my said trustees or their successors; willing also that my said trustees prefer such as shall be commended to them by the ministers, churchwardens, overseers of the poor, or other officers of the said towns.”

G. Townsend's
Bequest.
A.D. 1682.
Apprentices.

* * * * “And in case that the said rents and profits of the said premises in Wormington, Winchcomb, and Nether Guyting aforesaid, shall not suffice for all the said purposes to which they are limited, then I will that such want fall on the said apprentices, as to my trustees shall seem meet.”

“Yet my will and desire is that no boy be placed apprentice in the town where his parents dwell.”

Some alteration appears to have been made in the mode of administering this charity. The annual sum available for the binding of apprentices

is now £20, and it comes to the turn of Blockley, to select a boy once in two years. The trustees and managers of the property are J. C. Dent, Esq., Sudeley Castle, Messrs. Macgill, (Prestbury,) J. Staite, (Greet,) Dyer, Brindle, (Northleach,) W. Rimell, (Campden,) R. Coldicott, (Westington,) and Layton and Harris, (Cheltenham.)

R. Perkins'
Bequest.
A.D. 1710.
Clothing.

Richard Perkins of Drayton, Middlesex, by his will dated August 14th, 1702, bequeathed the sum of £400 to be invested in land by six or more trustees, being principal inhabitants of the parish of Blockley, the yearly rent of the land, to be spent "in clothing poor, old, impotent, industrious and honest people, who regularly attend the service of God in the parish church of Blockley."

Mr. Richard Perkins, died in 1710, and Sir John Rushout, Bart. Goddard Carter, Francis Martyn, Edward Palmer, Henry Hunt, and the Rev. Erasmus Saunders, vicar of Blockley, were nominated the first six trustees by the Master of the Rolls. With £381. 1. 6. part of the above bequest of £400, the trustees, by deed of lease and release, dated 3rd and 4th, July 1718, purchased of Christopher Francis, of Stow on the Wold, two closes of land, one called Langets, and the other Ballard's close, situate at Mickleton, Gloucestershire. The balance of the £400 (£18. 18. 6) and interest, was left in the hands of the Accountant General of the court of Chancery; but it does not appear to have been at any time paid over to the charity.

The tenants of the two closes are Mr. Hemming, and Mr. Farley, of Mickleton, the former paying £22. 10. 0. and the latter £15. 6. 0. per annum. The income is spent in providing coats for men, and gowns for women, which are annually distributed on Christmas day. There are about 20 coats, and 35 gowns distributed every year. The present trustees are the Rev. H. Bromfield, vicar, the Rt. Hon. Lord Northwick, Mr. James Slatter, (Paxford,) treasurer, Mr. Richard Purser, (Aston Magna,) Mr. Samuel Righton, (Stapenhill,) and Mr. John Herbert, (Blockley.)

Jane Croft's
Bequests.
A.D. 1711.
School.
F. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1713.
School.

(See boys' school endowments, page 75.)

(See boys' school endowments, page 76.)

The same estate at Upton Wold which was charged under the will of Goddard Carter, Esq., with the annual payment of £10 for the benefit of the boys' school, (see boys' school endowments, page 76) was further charged by him with the payment of £10 a year for ever, for "clothing the poorest old people of the parish of Blockley." And he also directed that the owner, or owners of the said estate for ever, shall appoint what poor persons shall be clothed, and with what clothing; and that a full account in writing under their hands, as to how they have disposed of the said charity be delivered to the Inhabitants yearly, in the Easter week, when they shall meet to choose Churchwardens. This charity consists of coats for men, and gowns for women, distributed annually at Christmas. The number of recipients is generally about 18 altogether. Lord Northwick is the present owner of the estate.¹

G. Carter's
Bequests.
A.D. 1723.
School and
Clothing.

(See Girl's School Endowments, page 79)

A. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1727.
School.

(See Boys School Endowments, page 77)

M. Carter's
Bequest.
A.D. 1741.
School & Books.

(See Boys School Endowments, page 77, and
Girl's School Endowments, page 79.)

E. Martyn's
Bequest.
A.D. 1747.
School.

The Right Hon. Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Northampton, was the third daughter of Sir James Rushout and Alice his wife, and was born in the year 1683. She died in January 1750, and by her will she bequeathed the sum of "£200 to be disposed of in charity, as her executors should think proper." This money appears to have remained in the hands of the Right Hon. Sir John Rushout, (brother of the Countess,) and who, I presume was one of the executors under her will. In pursuance of the above mentioned direction by the Countess, Sir John Rushout, "being persuaded it would best answer," his sister's "pious intention," regularly up to the time of his death, applied the interest of the £200 in giving to 20 poor persons in Blockley a two-penny loaf each, after Divine Service every Sunday. Sir John Rushout died March 2nd, 1775, and by his will

Countess
Dowager's
Northampton
Bequest.
A.D. 1750.
Bread.

¹ Philip Lyttelton, Esquire, owned this estate in 1756.

Sir John
Rushout's
Charge.
A.D. 1776.

dated, March 29th, 1771, he thus made provision for *perpetuating* his sisters intention: "And whereas my beloved sister, the Countess of Northampton, did by her last will bearing date the 24th of Sept. 1744, give the sum of £200 to be disposed of in charity, as her executors should think proper: Now in pursuance of the said direction, being persuaded it would best answer her pious intention, I have ever since her death given in bread to 20 of the poor inhabitants in the parish of Blockley, being the place of her birth, every Sunday each a twopenny loaf, and in order to perpetuate for ever the said charity, I give and charge my farm at Blockley, which I purchased of Jeremy Jaques, with the sum of £8 13. 4. every year with the payment thereof for ever. And I do desire and direct, that 20 twopenny loaves of bread be given every Sunday in the church after Divine Service to 20 of the poor inhabitants of the parish of Blockley, who shall not at such time receive alms of the parish, to be nominated by my heirs, or by such person who shall be seized of my mansion house at Northwick. And I desire there may be a board fixed over the shelf where the bread is placed in the church, denoting it to be the charity bread of the Right Hon. Elizabeth Countess Dowager of Northampton."

This charity is regularly distributed every Sunday. Two lists of recipients are made out, each list being taken alternately.

M. Scattergood's
Bequest.
A.D. 1764.
Clothing, &c.

Martha Scattergood, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Scattergood, Vicar of Blockley in 1681, by her will dated Aug. 29th, 1753, bequeathed to the town of Blockley the sum of £100 to be disposed of as the Minister and Churchwardens shall think best for the benefit of the poor. The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 25th May, 1754, and in 1756 the legacy was paid by her executors into the hands of Sir John Rushout, Bart. in whose hands it remained for some years. On the 25th March, 1801, the Right Hon. Lady Northwick gave notice of payment of the said legacy, with the interest which had accrued, and on the 23rd May, 1801, the sum of £179. 15. 0. stock 3 per cent consols, was purchased in the names of Rev. William Boughton, William Long, and Thomas Wheatcroft, yielding interest annually to the amount of £5. 17. 10. The amount of stock is now £151. 17. 10. and is invested with "the Official

Trustees of Charitable Funds." The annual dividend is £4. 10. 10. and is spent in providing clothing and bedding for poor persons resident within the township of Blockley.

The Right Hon. Rebecca, Baroness Northwick, left by her will the sum of £200, the interest thereof to be paid unto twenty poor women of the parish of Blockley for ever; the persons to be selected by the Minister and Churchwardens, and to receive each an equal share of such interest. This legacy after payment of £20 duty, was on Feb. 17th, 1819, invested in the 5 per cents, and purchased the sum of £166. 15. 8. stock, producing the annual sum of £8. 6. 9. This investment has undergone several changes, owing to reduced rates of interest. In the year 1831, part stood at 4, and part at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, producing only £6. 11. 3.

Lady
Northwick's
Bequest.
A.D. 1819.
Money.

At the present time the stock amounting to £175. 2. 5. is invested with "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," in the new 3 per cents and produces the annual sum of about £5. 5. 2. which is equally distributed every year at Christmas, among twenty poor women.

The Rev. William Boughton (who died in July, 1831,) Vicar of this Parish, bequeathed £300, the annual interest to be applied in repairing the monument in the parish Church to the memory of himself and his sister Miss Ann Boughton, and for the benefit of the poor of this parish, at the discretion of the Vicar for the time being. The legacy duty of £30 having been paid, the remaining sum of £270 was invested on May 9th, 1832, in the funds of the 4 per cents, and produced in stock £267. 18. 2. The amount of stock is now £297. 18. 2. invested with "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," in the new 3 per cents, producing a dividend of £8. 18. 10. per annum, (of which one-eighth is assigned to Aston and Dorn,) and is expended in clothing for the poor, and is distributed every Christmas. The monument alluded to is kept in repair as required by the will.

Rev. W.
Boughton's
Bequest.
A.D. 1831.
Clothing.

(See Girls' School Endowments, page 80.)

A. Boughton's
Bequest.
A.D. 1831.
School.

F. Bowhay's
Bequest.
A.D. 1836.
Coal.

"Frances Bowhay of this parish, widow, sister and administratrix of the late Henry Franklin, Esq., by an indenture bearing date the 4th day of August, 1836, settled the sum of £500 sterling, which she had invested in the purchase of £547. 3. 11. 3 per cent consolidated annuities in the names of Samuel Hiron, of Chipping Campden, Esq. and the Rev. Miles Coyle, Vicar of Blockley, to the intent and purpose, that they, the said trustees and their successors, should dispose of the interest, dividends, and annual produce thereof, in the purchase and distribution of coals, for the relief of such of the *aged and needy poor of the township of Blockley*, as her said trustees and their successors should think most deserving; such distribution to be made in the month of January, in every year."

The present trustees of this charity are the Rev. H. Bromfield, Vicar of Blockley, and Thos. Eden Hiron, Esq. of Shipston-on-Stour.

The annual income arising from this investment is about £16. 6. 2. which of late years has been increased by the addition of a few voluntary subscriptions.

Hon. A.
Rushout's
Bequest.
A.D. 1840.
Blankets.

Under the will of the Hon. Anne Rushout, bearing date March 18th, 1840, the sum of £200 was bequeathed to trustees upon trust to invest the same and apply the dividends "*solely in purchasing blankets for poor and aged people dwelling in the parish*; and if possible, persons not receiving parochial relief; to be distributed on Christmas day in every year, by the Clergyman and Overseers of the parish." These dividends amounting to about £5. 6. 3. are received by the Rev. H. Bromfield, at the Gloucestershire Bank, at Stow-on-the-Wold. One eighth of the amount is assigned to Aston and Dorn.

Lucy Russell's
Bequests,
A.D. 1858.
Clothing, &c.
School.

These bequests were made under the will of Lucy Russell, of Blockley, widow, dated August 31st, 1853. Proved in the District Registry at Worcester, Sept. 15th, 1858, by John Franklin Hiron, and Edwin Bartleet, the executors.

The following are the terms of the first bequest: "I give and bequeath out of my personal estate unto my said nephew John Franklin Hiron, and my friend Edwin Bartleet, of Birmingham, Surgeon, the sum of

£200 upon trust that they and the survivor, and the executors, administrators, and assigns of the survivor, do, and shall lay out, and invest the same sum in their or his names or name, in the Parliamentary Stocks or Public Funds of Great Britain, and do, and shall, with the consent and approbation of the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being, of the parish of Blockley, lay out, expend, give and dispose of the interest, dividends, and annual produce thereof, at Christmas annually for ever in bread, clothing, and fuel to such of the industrious poor persons, resident within the township of Blockley, as shall be deemed necessitous and deserving objects of the charity intended to be hereby founded."

The dividends amounting to £5. 18. 4. arising from the investment of this £200 are annually paid by the present trustees to the Vicar and Churchwardens, who expend the same according to the will.

(For the further bequest made by Mrs. Russell, see "Girls' School Endowments," page 80.)

The late Admiral Sir Edward Collier, K.C.B. made a bequest in the following terms, for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

Sir E. Collier's
Bequest,
A.D. 1872.
Coal, &c.

"I also give and bequeath to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being, of the parish of Blockley aforesaid, the sum of Three Hundred Pounds, free of legacy duty, upon trust to lay out and invest the same in their names, in some or one of the Parliamentary Stocks or funds of Great Britain, with power to alter and vary the same into other stocks or funds of the same nature, from time to time as they shall see fit, and that they and their successors from time to time do stand possessed thereof upon trust to receive and thereupon to lay out and expend the interest, dividends, and annual produce thereof annually, for and during the term of one hundred years to be computed from the day of my decease, in the purchase of coals or other necessities, and to distribute the same at Christmas in every year during such term amongst such of the poor and necessitous persons in the parish of Blockley aforesaid, and in such manner and proportions as to them the said Vicar and Churchwardens, for the time being, may seem most in need of assistance. And from and immediately after the

expiration of such term of one hundred years as aforesaid, the said principal money I direct shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate, and go and be applied as in my said will is directed regarding the same."

The above sum of £300 is invested with "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," in the new 3 per cents. Purchased £323. 17. 9. stock, The half yearly dividend amounts to £4. 17. 2. and is paid into the hands of the Vicar and Churchwardens.

E. Sperry's
Bequest.
A.D. 1873.
Clothing, &c.

Elizabeth Sperry, (widow of James Sperry, formerly of Blockley,) who died at Cheltenham, Feb. 18th, 1873, and was buried at Blockley, Feb. 25th, by her will made the following bequest: "To the Clergyman and Churchwardens for the time being of the parish of Blockley, One Hundred pounds upon trust to invest the same, and dispose of the annual income thereof in keeping in repair the tomb and tombstone of my said late husband in the Churchyard and the Tablet erected to his memory in the Church. The remainder of such annual income to be given away in blankets or warm clothing at Christmas annually, to such of the poor as the said Clergyman and Churchwardens shall select."

The above sum was invested with "the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," in the new 3 per cents and purchased £108. 16. 11.

In concluding the list of the Blockley Charities, I may mention that the various charity accounts are submitted for the approval of the vestry, at Easter every year.

In addition to the above charities, Lord Northwick, generally distributes at Christmas among his labourers and others many gifts of blankets clothing, &c.

An old custom is still kept up by Lord Northwick, of distributing childrens' pence annually on St. Thomas' Day. On that day at 12 o'clock about 600 children receive each a penny on application at Northwick.

THE CHILDES OF NORTHWICK.

The family of the Childes seems to have settled at Northwick in the year 1320, when the Manor of Northwick was granted to them in lease.¹ Richard le Childe, or l'Enfant (for the name was variously written) was living there in that year, as was Thomas Childe in 1349 and 1353, and William in 1350². The office of Escheator of the County of Worcester, was held by a Thomas Childe, 5 Hen. VI. (A.D. 1427.) This office was held by an esquire, chosen de melioribus armigeris comitatûs. William Childe of Northwick, Esquire, was High Sheriff of Worcestershire, 28 Eliza (A.D. 1586,) as was William Childe of Pensax, his son, 41 Eliz. (A.D. 1599.) In the appendix to Nash's History the name of a Mr. William Child appears in a list of "the Gentlemen of Worcestershire that found a man and horse in the county during the civil wars of Charles I." The name of Thomas Childe also appears in the list of Justices of the Peace for the County of Worcester, A.D. 1660. According to the Childe pedigree (in Nash) William Childe of Northwick married into the family of Huncks. Robert Huncks was living in Northwick A.D. 1569. Thomas Hunkes of Radbroke was High Sheriff of Worcestershire, 35 Hen. VIII. (A.D. 1544,) and William Hunkes held the same office, 6 Eliz. (A.D. 1564.) The Childes continued to reside at Northwick, certainly till 1679, as in that year "Thomas Child Esq. of Northwick," was buried at Blockley. About that time (Charles II) they sold the Manor of Northwick to Sir James Rushout, Bart.³ [There is a William Child (born at Bristol) mentioned in Camden's Britannia, as an eminent Doctor of Music in the reign of Charles II. I am not aware whether he belonged to the Northwick family of that name.]

THE RUSHOUTS OF NORTHWICK.

The name of this family was originally spelt Roualt. They possessed large estates in Picardy and Normandy, and were related to the Dukes of Normandy. Before the Conquest they bore the same arms as the three first

¹ Bigland's Collections.

² Nash.

³ Nash's History.—Nash here speaks of the *Manor* of Northwick being sold to Sir James Rushout. I imagine he must mean the *lease* of the Manor, which was granted to them in 1320, as mentioned *supra*. In another place Nash speaks of the *Manor of Northwick being included in the Bishop's great Manor of Blockley*. This being so the Childes could hardly have sold the *Manor* of Northwick without the consent of the Bishop, who at that time was Lord of the Manor of Blockley.

Kings of that race. Henry II. in right of his wife, enjoyed large possessions in France, amongst the rest the duchies of Aquitain and Poitou, and added a third lion as the arms of one of these provinces to the arms of England, on which account the family of Roualt assumed the present motto, viz: *Par ternis suppar*, the two are equal in antiquity to the three. The Roualt family is often mentioned by the French historians as having taken an active part especially in the military service of their country. They appear to have been related to the Houses of Bourbon, Montmorency, and many others of the first families, not only in France, but other parts of the Continent.

A full account of the ancestor of the present family is given in Moreri's Dictionary, under the article Gammache.¹

Sir James
Rushout.
A.D. 1661.

Sir James Rushout, Bart, who purchased Northwick from the Childe family, was son of John Rushout of Maylards, in Essex, Esq. who was born at Rousseler in Flanders, being descended from an eminent house in Bretagne as appears by an attested pedigree in possession of the family. This John Rushout came into England, and was naturalized 21 April, 10 Car. 1. He married first, Anne daughter of Joas Godschalk, Merchant, of London, and secondly, Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Finnet, Knt. He died in 1653, leaving several children, one of whom James born in 1643) was created a Baronet by Charles II. June 17th 1661, and became the purchaser of the Northwick estate. Sir James represented Evesham in Parliament upwards of 30 years without interruption, except the Convention Parliament at the Revolution, when he raised a regiment in support of King William, and was elected M.P. for the County of Worcester. In May 1697, he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the Grand Seignior, but died the February following, just as he was going to set out, and was buried at *Northwick*.²(?)

He married Alice, daughter and heiress of Edmund Pitt, Esquire, of Harrow-on-the-Hill. At his death he left two sons and three daughters, viz: James and John both of whom subsequently succeeded to the title;

¹ Eyre's Blockley Guide.

² Naah's History.

Alice who married Edwyn Sandys of Ombersley, Esq; Catherine who married Samuel Pitts, Esq. of Kyre, in the County of Worcester; and Elizabeth, who married 1st, Sir George Thorald, of Harmston in the County of Lincoln; and 2ndly, George, Earl of Northampton.

The title and estates then descended to his eldest son James, who married Arabella (daughter of Sir Thomas Vernon, Knt.) by whom he had a son and daughter, James and Elizabeth. He died in 1705, and was succeeded by his son James, who died in 1711, aged 9 years. This Sir James was then succeeded by his uncle John Rushout, fourth son of the first Sir James Rushout. Sir John Rushout married Anne Compton, daughter of George, 4th Earl of Northampton. He died March 2nd 1775, leaving one son John, born July 12th, 1738, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. Sir John Rushout married, June 8th, 1766, Rebecca daughter of Humphry Bowles, Esq. of Wanstead Grove, Essex; and was created a peer, by the title of Baron Northwick, Oct. 26th, 1797. He died in Oct. 1800, aged 62 years, leaving five children, viz: Ann; John, (who succeeded to the title); George, in holy orders; Harriet, who married Sir Charles Cockerell, Bart. M.P. for Evesham; and Elizabeth, who married, 1st Sydney Bowles, Esq. and 2nd Colonel Grieve. The 2nd Lord Northwick being unmarried, his only brother the Hon. and Rev. George Rushout, of Burford House, County of Salop, was heir presumptive to the title and estates. He married Jan. 10th, 1803 Caroline Stewart, daughter of John, 8th Earl Galloway, K.T. and had issue George who died in 1808, aged 6 months; Georgiana; George John; Harriett and Elizabeth. The Hon. and Rev. G. Rushout dying before his brother Lord Northwick, his son George John (the present peer) became heir to the title and estates, to which he succeeded as 3rd Lord on the death of his uncle in January 1859. The present peer was born in 1811. He represented Evesham in Parliament from February 1837, to August 1841, and East Worcestershire from Jan. 1847, to January 1859, when he succeeded to the peerage. He became Captain in the 1st Life Guards in 1842; Lieut. Col. of the Herefordshire Militia in 1853; a Deputy Lieutenant of Salop in 1852, and of Worcestershire in 1860. His Lordship was married April 15th, 1869, to the Hon. Augusta

Elizabeth Warburton, widow of Major George Warburton, R.A. and daughter of the first Lord Bateman, and has issue the Hon. Caroline Rushout. It may not be uninteresting to local readers to place on record here, that on the occasion of his Lordship's marriage, he and Lady Northwick were presented with illuminated Addresses, from his Lordship's tenants and tradesmen of Blockley, and also from the Inhabitants generally; the former presenting with their address a Bracelet to Lady Northwick; and the latter with their's a handsome Dessert Service, ornamented with various Ferns, and a Peer's Coronet, to Lord Northwick. The tree (*Wellingtonia Gigantea*) now growing in the north-east portion of the Churchyard, was also planted by the late Admiral Sir E. Collier, K.C.B. in commemoration of the joyful occasion.

THE RUSHOUTS IN PARLIAMENT.

This family was for a very long period Parliamenterarily connected with the borough of Evesham.¹ Sir James Rushout, the first Baronet, appears as a candidate in 1669. He was defeated, and petitioned against the successful candidate; and the Committee of Elections decided in his favour, and that he was duly elected. The House however resolved contrary to the opinion of the Committee, but the Election was void on account of the denial of the poll.

Another Election consequently took place in the same year. In the following year Sir James Rushout was elected, and continued to represent the borough for some years.

Date of Election.

1670.—Sir James Rushout, Bart.

1679. " "

1681. " "

1690. " "

1695. " "

In the year 1698 Sir James Rushout died, and John Rudge Esq. was

¹ May's History of Evesham.

returned in his stead

1701 Sir James Rushout, Bart. (Son of the former member I presume.)

1721-2.—Sir John Rushout, Bart.

1727. " "

1734, " "

1741. " "

1741-2. " " after acceptance of Office under the
Crown

1743. " " on accepting Office under Government
a second time.

1747. " "¹

1754. " "

²1761. " "³ and John Rushout Esq. his Son.

1768.—John Rushout, Esq.

1774.—Sir John Rushout, (the same as the last named, having
succeeded to the baronetcy.)

1780. " "

1784. " "

1790. " "

1796. At this Election Sir John Rushout was unsuccessful, and
shortly afterwards he was raised to the Peerage, by the
title of Baron Northwick.

1818.—Sir Charles Cockerell, Bart. (Brother-in-law to Lord
Northwick)

1820. " "

1826. " "

1830. " " (Ousted on petition, and writ sus-
pended for upwards of 4 months.)

1831, " "

1832. " "

¹ Sir John Rushout was at this time a Privy Councillor.

² This return was petitioned against, but the petition was afterwards withdrawn.

³ In Horace Walpole's Private Correspondence Sir John Rushout is alluded to as
"the Father of the House of Commons." (Vol. III. page 196.)

1835.—Sir Charles Cockerell, Bart.

1837. (Feb.) George Rushout Bowles, Esq. (now Lord Northwick) in the place of Sir Charles Cockerell, deceased.

1837. (July) George Rushout, Esq. (returned at last Election as George Rushout Bowles)

1841.—At this Election George Rushout, Esq. was defeated, and afterwards was Elected for the Eastern Division of the County of Worcester, which he represented until his succession to the Peerage.

The following members of the family have held the Office of Mayor of Evesham.¹

A.D. 1768 John Rushout.

1800 Hon. G. Rushout, (Clerk.)

1802 John, Lord Northwick.

1810 Sir C. Cockerell, Bart.

1817 Hon. G. Rushout, (Clerk.)

1833 Sir C. Cockerell, Bart.

The family of Rushout is also connected with the Borough of Malmesbury. In the year 1722 the Right Hon. Sir John Rushout, P.C. was returned to Parliament as Member for the Borough, in conjunction with Lord Hillsborough; but a petition complaining of the illegality of this Election, was presented to the House of Commons.² The author of the history mentioned in the note below, does not state the result of this petition, but refers to the journal of the House of Commons, Vol. XX. p. 77 Dec. 13th, 1722. This same Sir John Rushout, was also High Steward of the Borough of Malmesbury from 1740 to 1750. The Lordship of the Manor of Malmesbury has belonged to the Rushout family for many years.

¹ May's History of Evesham.

² Moffat's History of Malmesbury.

THE COLLIER FAMILY.

The first connection of this family with Blockley, appears to have commenced at the time of the Great Rebellion, about A.D. 1653, in which year (as the Parish Register informs us) the Rev. George Durant, the then Vicar of Blockley was ejected from his living by the rebels, and the Rev. Giles Collier put into his place. At the Restoration, it was required, that all those persons who had been put into possession of the property of the English Church, that is, the Church livings, should either conform to the regulations of the Church or resign. The Rev. Giles Collier was among the number who conformed, and therefore he continued in possession of the living of Blockley, and was (according to the parish Register) legally constituted Vicar "per collationem" (by collation) the 19th Dec. 1660. He died in the year 1678, and was buried July 31st in the Chancel of the parish Church. I have not been able to ascertain whether any member of the family resided here, subsequently to the death of the Rev. Giles Collier, until the residence of Mr. Edward Collier, the father of the late Admiral Sir E. Collier.

THE LATE ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD COLLIER, K.C.B.

In any work having reference to Blockley, it would not be right to leave unnoticed the life and death of one, whom many in this parish had the privilege of claiming as a real friend and benefactor. The late Admiral was the son of Mr. Edward Collier, and was born at Blockley in the year 1783, where he received his early education. The following account of his Naval career is extracted from O'Byrne's Naval Biography. "He entered the Navy in 1796 as first-class volunteer on board the Formidable, 98, Capt. Hon. George Cranfield Berkeley, flag-ship afterwards of Sir Charles Thompson, under whom he attained the rating of Midshipman, 1st April, 1797.

Between May 1798 and the close of 1802, he next served in the East and West Indies, on board the Maidstone and Sea-horse frigates, Capts. Ross Donnelly, and Edward Jas. Foote; and Victorious, 74, and Centurion, 50, flag-ships of Vice-Admiral Peter Rainier; and for his contributory exer-

tions in saving the latter vessel, when on the point of foundering during a fearful hurricane, was appointed 13th Dec. 1802, acting Lieutenant of the *Arrogant*, 74, Capt. John Batt. Being soon afterwards lent to the *Teignmouth* brig, he accompanied Capt. Jas. Giles Vashon, in an expedition sent in Feb. 1803 against the pirates of Guzzurat, on which occasion, after the hazardous destruction of thirty of the enemy's vessels, he headed a division of seamen and marines in an attack made on one of their forts, where the British were completely repulsed, with a loss of 40 men killed and wounded. Mr. Collier who was confirmed a Lieutenant 17th June 1803, exchanged in November following into the *St. Fiorenzo* 36, Capts. Jos. Bingham, Henry Lambert, and George N. Hardinge, the second-named of whom he ably supported in a desperate conflict of several hours, which, on 14th Feb. 1805, rendered captive to the *St. Fiorenzo* the French 32 gun frigate, *La Psyché*, after a loss to the former of 12 men killed and 36 wounded, and to her opponent, of 57 killed and 70 wounded.

Having invalided home in March 1808, on board the *Monmouth*, 64, Capt. Edwd. Durnford King, he next, on 14th Jan. 1809, joined as first lieutenant, the *Thames*, 32, Capt. Hon. Granville Geo. Waldegrave, on the Mediterranean Station, where his gallantry in command of the boats of that ship, and the *Pilot* brig, at the capture and destruction of a large and well-protected convoy near Amanthea, 25th July 1810, procured him a second promotal commission, bearing the same date. Obtaining command 27th Oct. 1812, of the *Manly*, brig, Capt. Collier proceeded to the Scheldt, and then sailed with convoy for Newfoundland, whence he afterwards went to Halifax, where the *Manly* was driven high and dry on shore during a heavy gale, 13th Nov. 1813, and only got off after an incessant labour of 3 weeks. In May 1814 having volunteered with the whole of his ship's company to co-operate with Sir James Lucas Yeo on the Canadian Lakes, Capt. Collier gallantly assisted with the gun-boats under his orders, in the attack on Oswego. After bearing a part in many other arduous enterprises, he was officially advanced 18th Nov. following, to the command of the *Princess Charlotte*, 42. He returned to England in 1816; commanded subsequently from 8th Sept. 1818, until 30th Nov. 1821 the *Mersey*, 26, on the Halifax Station; and on the 3rd April 1837 joined the *Castor*, 36, in which frigate,

during the Syrian campaign, he conducted a series of successful operations against the towns of Caiffa, Jaffa, and Tsour, and shared in the bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre, where after highly distinguishing himself, he had the misfortune to have his leg severely fractured, and received other hurts of a slighter description. For the part he took in this action, he received a medal and was gazetted. He was nominated a C.B. Dec. 8th, 1840, and paid off the *Castor* in 1841. On 4th Feb. 1845, he was appointed to the command of H.M.S. *Rodney*, 92, one of an experimental squadron employed under the orders of Rear Admirals Sir Hyde Parker, and Sir Samuel Pym." After being in commission for 4 years, he paid off the *Rodney* at Portsmouth, on March 8th, 1849, after which date he was not employed again on active service.

The dates of his flag promotions are as follows :

1st Oct. 1850,	Rear Admiral of the Blue.
5th Mar. 1853.	" " White.
3rd July 1855.	" " Red.
18th June 1857	Vice Admiral of the Blue.
Nov. 1857	Placed on the Reserved List.
4th Oct. 1862	Promoted to be Admiral.

Admiral Collier was nominated a K.C.B. 7th June 1865, and on June 9th was invested by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, acting on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

Ever since he ceased to be employed on active service, the late Sir Edward Collier resided almost constantly in his native parish of Blockley, where he was always ready to help forward by his liberality any needful and good work. As long as he was able he discharged the duties of a County Magistrate. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant for Worcestershire. He departed this life on the 5th August 1872, and was buried by the side of his ancestors in the Chancel of the parish Church, on the 13th.

WILLIAM DERHAM, D.D.

This distinguished man was born at Stoughton, (Stoulton ?) and was educated in "Grammar learning" at *Blockley*. In May 1675 he was ad-

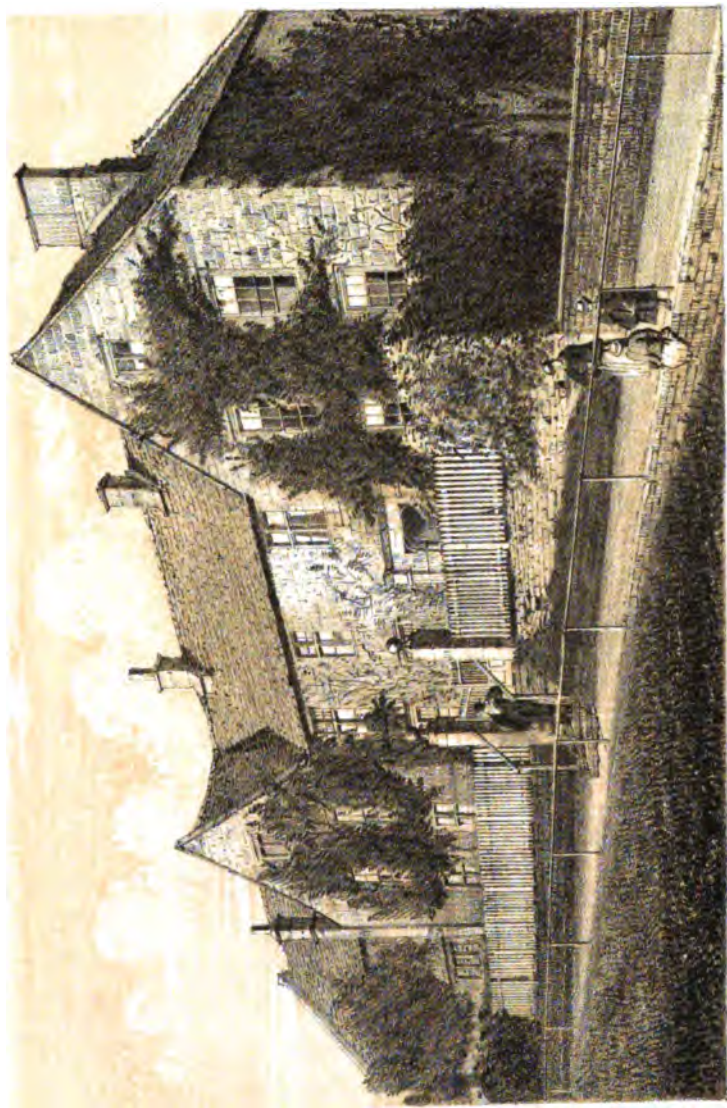
mitted at Trinity College, Oxford; and when he took his degree of B.A. was already distinguished for his learning and exemplary character. He was ordained deacon in 1681, priest in July 1682, and in the same month was presented to the Vicarage of Wargrave in Berkshire. In August 1689 he was presented to the living of Upminster in Essex. Here he applied himself with great eagerness to the study of nature, and to mathematics and experimental philosophy, in which he became so eminent, that in 1702 he was chosen F.R.S. In 1716 he was made a Canon of Windsor, being at that time Chaplain to the Prince of Wales, and in 1730 received the degree of D.D. by diploma from the University of Oxford, on account of his learning, and the service he had done to religion by his culture of "natural knowledge." He died in his 78th year 5th April 1735 at Upminster, where he was buried. His eldest son William Derham, D.D. became President of St. John's College Oxford, and died in 1757.¹

THE PORCH HOUSE.

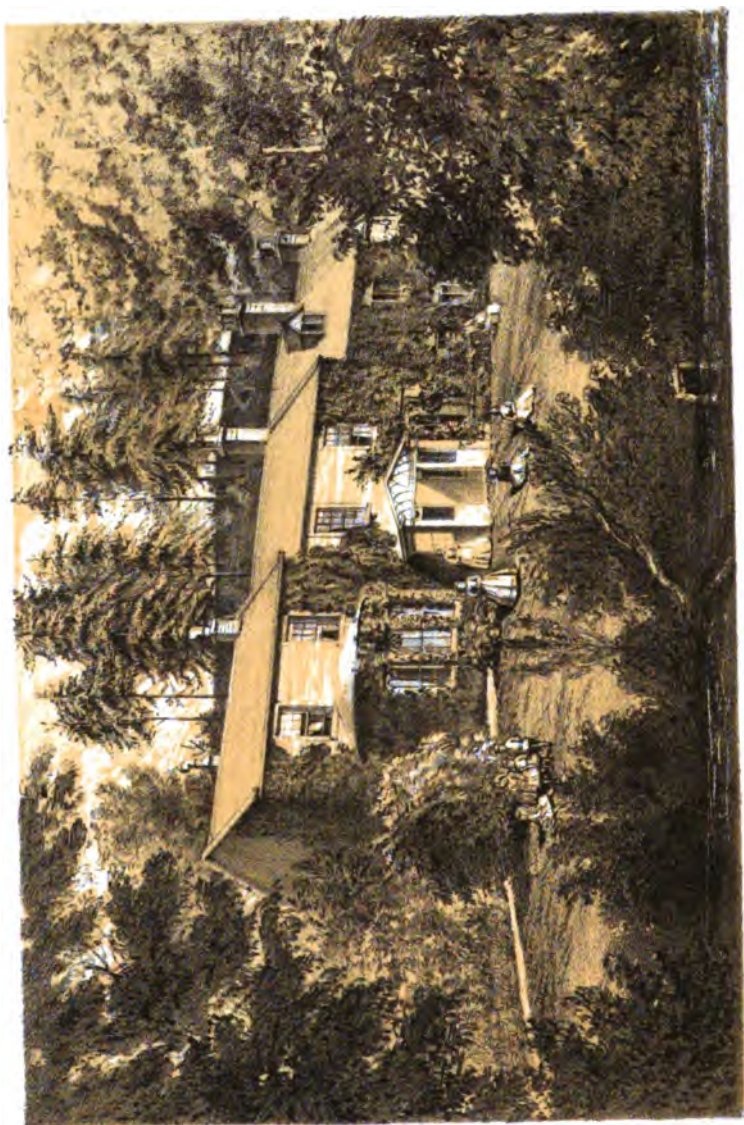
This is a pleasantly situated house on the eastern side of Blockley. It is a handsome stone building of the Elizabethan period, having two projecting gables in front, with a rather striking porch between them, (which probably gives name to the house,) and opposite to which are two pillars forming the entrance gateway.

Some of the windows of the front have been altered by the insertion of modern sash frames; the others retain their original stone mullions, which are plain chamfered, divided near the top by a transome of similar character. Over each window is a hood moulding. The back of the house has been altered, and the entrance on this side is pointed. On one of the windows on this side is observable a moulded mullion, which has evidently been removed from some other place. The interior has some good rooms, in one of which are fragments of carved panelling. From some of these it would appear that they have been removed from some religious house, as they are placed here without regard to the order of the original inscription, so much

¹ Biographical Illustrations of Worcestershire by John Chambers, Esq., 1820.



FORGE HOUSE.



DOVEDALE.

of which is missing, as to render it impossible to form any accurate idea as to its purport. It has been thought that the Porch House was originally a "religious house," but this idea appears scarcely well founded. It may possibly have had some connection with some other house, on which it might have been a dependency. Probably it may occupy the site of some grange, connected with the ancient Bishop's palace, which may account for the removal of the fragments of the carved panelling above mentioned. The site of the house is somewhat against its having been a religious house. With so many more favorable and retired positions as there are in Blockley, any cell would scarcely have been placed here.¹ The house and premises are now the property of Mr. Horne, of Moreton-in-Marsh.

DOVEDALE.

At the south western end of the Village, about half-a-mile from the Church, is one of the loveliest and most picturesque valleys in Worcestershire, called appropriately Dovedale. The house has been much improved by Lord Northwick, to whom it belongs, and is now occupied by the Hon. Mrs. Yelverton.

This portion of the Northwick plantations extends for about a mile, from Dovedale house, to the old London and Worcester road, and is terminated by Dovedale lodge. The valley, from its entrance from Blockley to its upper end near Bourton Wood, is rather more than half-a-mile in length, and is exceedingly picturesque. The sides of this dell are steep, and covered with timber of great variety, and on its eastern side, clothed to the water's edge with underwood. The stream which runs through the village takes its rise in Bourton Wood, and flows down this valley, just before entering which it receives material accession from a strong spring on the hill side. At short intervals the stream is banked up into little pools, and the confined waters find their way over a weir placed at the lower end of each: the artificial construction of some of these being considerably modified by the foliage by which they are overhung. These cascades, eight in number,

¹ This is the opinion formed by an antiquarian of considerable ability, who visited the house.

appear at every turn of the stream, and each forms a little picture of its own. The lowest pool is opposite Dovedale house, and in its centre is a small island, from the summit of which one of these cascades falls into the pool, presenting a singular appearance, but which is explained by the fact that this fall is supplied from a separate spring situated in the side of the hill above, the water of which is conveyed by pipes under the road and bed of the pool, into a reservoir on the top of the island. The waters of this spring are of a petrifying quality, and part of them find their way to an outfall by the side of the road near the entrance to the dale. The road which runs up the dale as far as the lodge, is, I believe, not a public thoroughfare.

UPTON WOLD.

Upton Wold is supposed to have been originally a separate hamlet within the parish.¹ It is now included within the *township* of Blockley. It consists of two separate estates, called Hither Upton Wold, and Farther Upton Wold. The former is the property of Lord Northwick, and is distant about 1 mile to the w of Blockley, and the latter is the property of Earl Beauchamp, and is distant about 2 miles w by s. The place is called by Nash "Upton," or "Upton Old." He says it was anciently called "Uppetune," which (from the situation of the place) probably means *up-town* or *upper-town*. The word "Wold" is derived from the Saxon, and is equivalent to "Wald" or "Weald," which signifies a wooded hill. The London and Worcester road passes through the parish of Blockley, at Upton Wold.

Hither Upton Wold bears traces of having been a more populous place, and of great antiquity. In a field to the south of the farm house, there are extensive traces of an ancient encampment, arranged in a series of terraces. On the lower side of the same field, and in two others closely adjoining is a number of irregular mounds, indicative of early occupation. These mounds are formed partly of small loose stones, many of which have

¹ Nash's History



HITHER UPTON WOLD .

evidently been subjected to the action of fire. Old foundations have been discovered, some of which appear to have formed the outer sides of rectangular rooms.

In all probability Hither Upton Wold was the site of a Roman Station, as it is recorded that Roman coins have been found there, some of the time of Constantine the Great; and if excavations were to be made, it is likely that some interesting discoveries might be made.

The farm house is a handsome building in the Elizabethan style, presenting in its principal frontage those special features so characteristic of the period in which it was erected,—of gables, square-headed mullioned windows, and clustered chimneys. In front of the house are some fine old trees, once included within the gardens. The farm is in the occupation of Mr. Richard Holtom. The estate is freehold, and (in addition to the farm house) contains two cottages, and about 424 acres.

Far Upton Wold, now the property of Lord Beauchamp, is also freehold estate. It formerly belonged to the families of Martyn, Pengree, and the Earl of Coventry. The farm house was built about the year 1790, by Mr. George Pengree, Merchant, one of the former owners who resided there. The farm is in the occupation of Messrs. Richard and Martin Meadows. On the estate stand three cottages, occupied by the farm labourers. There are also some stables called the "Jockey Stables," in the occupation of Mr. Weaver, trainer, of Bourton-on-the-Hill. Here also are the now unused kennels, where the late General Lygon kept a pack of hounds. The estate contains 505 acres.

PAXFORD HAMLET.

This hamlet (which was enclosed in 1772) is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the N.E. of Blockley. In Bigland's Collections it is called "Paxton." Some persons derive the name from "Packhorse-ford," which would account for its being spelt "Packsford." It is a place of considerable antiquity, as we may see from the mention made of it in Nash's History of Worcestershire, as to some of the tenures. He mentions (from authority) that "in the time of Edward I. Robert Fitzwilliams held half a hide of land in Paxford.

Alice de Argento held a yardland which afterwards passed to Mand Selvere. John Leger, the son of Robert, held half a hide of land. He also held a yardland which was bestowed on the college of Westbury, and at the suppression of that house, was given by the King, 35 Hen. VIII. to Sir Ralph Sadler, together with a capital messuage, and another yardland in Paxford belonging to the college. From Sir Ralph, they came to John Fletcher, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, 1557. John Fitzwilliams held a yardland, which descended to John Lawrence, and from him to the college of Westbury. In all probability this is the other yardland which was granted to Sir Ralph Sadler."

This college, mentioned by Nash as having had bestowed on it certain lands at Paxford, was at Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol. From the account given in Lewis' Topographical Dictionary, this college was established about A.D. 1288. It is stated that "a monastery existed here (Westbury-on-Trym) early in the 9th century, which was refounded near the close of the 11th. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and made a cell to the priory of Worcester, but was dissolved in the reign of Henry I. About 1288 it became a college for deans and canons, in honour of the Holy Trinity. In 1443 it was rebuilt, and its possessions augmented by William Canning, a Merchant, and Dr. Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, who styled himself Bishop of Worcester and Westbury. Its revenue at the dissolution was estimated at £232. 14. 0; and the house, which remained till the reign of Charles I., was burned by Prince Rupert, to prevent its falling into the power of Parliament, but some traces of it are still visible in a mansion erected on its site"¹ *Camden* states it was Dr. Carpenter, who rebuilt the college, and raised a strong wall round it.² So late as the year 1866, the mansion alluded to, and the old tower were still in existence; but when the family who resided there left in 1868, the property was sold, and fell into the hands of a Building Society. There have been about 30 cottages erected on the college grounds. The old tower *still* remains, and part of the house; but this may not be for long, as the purchasers of the property

¹ Lewis' Topographical Dictionary.

² Camden's *Britannia*.

are prepared to sell the small piece of land, tower and all, if they can get an offer! On the restoration of Westbury Church about 24 years ago, the remains of Dr. Carpenter were discovered. Having been Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, the churchwardens wrote to the College authorities, and suggested that they should erect a tomb to Dr. Carpenter's memory in Westbury Church, which they accordingly did.

The Rev W. T. Eyre in his "Guide to Blockley" states that the above mentioned messuage which passed to John Fletcher, is probably the same which was then (1827) in the occupation of a Mrs. Martin as tenant, and which, with the lands, subsequently passed from Fletcher to a relation, John Pott, Esq. of London. If this be so, this messuage must be the one lately belonging to, and occupied by the late Mr. Richard Reynolds, by whom it has been much restored and improved; and under whose will it has now passed to his brother Mr. Joseph Reynolds.

In the hamlet of Paxford there stood one of the three chapels which anciently belonged to Blockley, in addition to the mother Church. For authority on this point, Nash refers to Manuscripts, (Nos. 104 and 108) in the Library of Jesus College, Oxford. An application was made by me to the present Librarian of the College, who kindly referred to the M.S.S. for me; but the only reference to Paxford, (beyond the mere name) is in these words:—"Oswaldeslow Hundred: Paxford is a member of Blockley; it has had a chapell in it now demolished." The date of the M.S. from which this extract is taken appears to be 1661. The site where this Chapel stood still goes by the name of Chapel Close, and belongs to Mr. James Slatter. After this lapse of time it is impossible to ascertain how Paxford Chapel came to be demolished, but its demolition entailed on the inhabitants the almost entire deprivation of the opportunities of public worship; distance and weather preventing regular attendance at the mother Church. An attempt was made some years ago by the late Mr. Henry Roberts and others to get a Church built here, and a considerable sum of money was raised; but in consequence of the incompleteness of the scheme, the late Bishop of Worcester withheld his sanction, and the money was returned to the subscribers. A small Chapel was then erected by the Nonconformists,

which was the only place of worship in the hamlet, till the late Mr. Richard Reynolds, of Paxford, (a Nonconformist) generously gave a site for the erection of a Church of England building. This act of liberality was quickly followed by one on the part of Mrs. Gilbert Elliot, then a resident at Paxford, (whose many quiet deeds of kindness will long be remembered there,) who undertook to provide a School-room, which could be used for Divine service on Sunday. The size of the School-room is 30 ft by 18 ft.; the Chancel 10 ft. by 8 ft.; the porch, 6 ft. by 5 ft. 6 in. The amount paid by Mrs. Elliot was about £250. including half the cost of the bell; the other half being paid by the late Mr. Richard Reynolds, who also bore the expense of the Clock, and Clock Turret; the sum paid by him being £50.



The Chancel according to the Government requirement is shut off during the week from the other portion of the room, which is used as an infant school. The building was licensed on the 14th June, 1866, by the Bishop of Worcester, for the celebration of Divine Service. One service is held there every Sunday, (in addition to the three at the parish Church) and on the greater Festivals; special services being held in Lent. The congregations, especially in the evening, are generally good; a fact which proves that the inhabitants have some appreciation of the privilege of public

worship.

In the Chancel a stained glass window has been placed in memory of the late Miss Mary Elliot, only daughter of Mrs. Gilbert Elliot. The window consists of three openings. The subject of the centre one is our Lord raising to life the daughter of Jairus: "Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise." In the outside openings, ornamental grisaille glass, coloured borders, &c., &c., &c. At the base of the window is the inscription: "To the glory of God and the beloved memory of Mary Elliot, born 28th Oct. 1850. Died at Mentone, 13th Jan., 1870."

"My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Under the window is a brass memorial tablet bearing the inscription. "This window was placed here by the inhabitants of this hamlet, and others of the neighbourhood who knew and loved her."

The work was designed and executed by Messrs. Holland and Holt, of Warwick.

A Silver Communion Service was presented through Mrs. Elliot, in 1866. Each piece bears the inscription, "Paxford—Presented by the Lady Grace Gore, 1866."

The harmonium was the gift of the late Mr. Henry Roberts.

There are places in Paxford known by the names of Elm Lane, (leading to Shipston-on-Stour) so called from the "Paxford Elm" which formerly stood in it, but was destroyed nearly 30 years ago; Blakemoor, Beanfurlong, Piddenhams, the Folly, &c., &c.

The acreage of Paxford is about 841. The gross estimated rental about £1546. The population in 1826 was 158, in 1861, 227, and in 1871, 215.

DRAYCOTT HAMLET.

Extract from Nash's History: "Haerte appears from the Domesday Book of the Bishoprick to have holden half a hide in Draycott, by the gift of Bishop Simon.

Tidelmus de Draicote held half a hideland. John, the son of John de Draycote held half a hide, which afterwards belonged to John Child, of Northwick.

Robert Prudehomme held one hide some time Gilbert de Draycote's.

The village of Draycott formerly owed a small yearly rent for their common."

Draycott lies rather more than a mile to the N.E. of Blockley. It was enclosed in 1772.

In this hamlet there is a part called "Oldborough" which is included within the *township* of Blockley, the other part of Draycott being separate. The principal landowners are Lord Northwick, Lord Redesdale, and the Vicar.

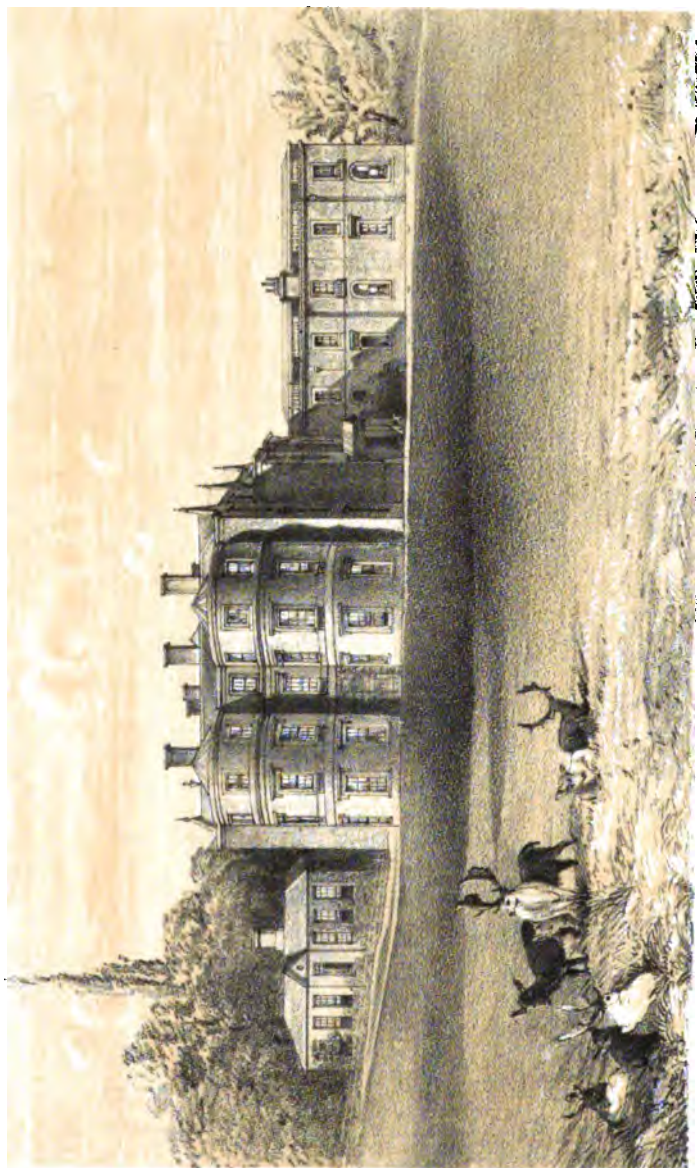
The acreage of Draycott is 488. 0. 6. The gross estimated rental about £920. The population in 1826 was 215, in 1861, 173, and in 1871, 178.

DITCHFORD HAMLET,

This Hamlet lies to the N.E. of Blockley, and is distant rather more than 4 miles. Two Ditchfords are set down in the Parliamentary Survey of Blockley, *each* appearing to have been called a *township*; as Nash says "*they now constitute but one township.*" In the Bishop's Domesday Book, Richard Puher and his nephew Richard, are said to have held 5 hides in this township. Some time after Walter Puher held 2 hides here; Richard Furches 2 hides, and Roger de Norwic one hide.

In the time of Edward I. Geoffrey de Dichford held 4 hides in Ditchford. William de Dychford, 20 Edward III. held the lands which Geoffrey de Dichford formerly held. And 7 Henry VI. Robert Clynton, held 2½ hides in Ditchford which William de Dychford some time held.¹ Ditchford used to pay £3. to the poor at Easter, called contribution money. It was formerly the property of the Foleys who sold it to the Sheldons of

¹ Nash's History.



NORTHWICK PARK.

Winchester, from whom it passed to the Nevilles of Leicestershire. The estate, on which there are 4 farms, a corn mill, and a cottage, is now the property of Mr. F. W. G. Barr. It comprises 1039a. lr. 38p. The gross estimated rental is about £1490. The population in 1861 was 32. In 1871, 39.

NORTHWICK HAMLET.

The hamlet of Northwick is distant about a mile from Blockley. Nash mentions the Manor of Northwick as being included in the Bishop's great Manor of Blockley. "In the Domesday book of the Bishoprick, Roger de Norwyke is said to hold one hide and a half yard land. William de Norwyke half a hide of land. Robert de Norwyke one hide of land. Also William de Draycott one hide and a half; and Robert de Clyfton or Clypston, one hide and a half; both which seemed to have passed to Thomas Hunckes. In the reign of Edward I. Amicia de Kingsford held one hide in Northwick, which in Edward III. was held by John de Clypston. John Childe, together with Thomas Waleye, and John Gyleworth, succeeded Thomas Hunckes in the land which was held by Robert de Clypston.¹ In this hamlet stands the Mansion of Lord Northwick, formerly the property of the Childes. (see page 91.)

Bigland in his "Collections" speaks of it thus:—"Northwick the ancient mansion of the Childes was new modelled in 1730, by the late Sir John Rushout, Bart., from a design of the celebrated Earl of Burlington. From its present possessor, Northwick has received such improvements in the House, pleasure Grounds and Park, as to entitle it to a place amongst the best specimens of Modern Art and refined taste." In the picture gallery at Northwick (added by the late Lord Northwick,) there is a most valuable collection of paintings, which form a portion of those collected by the late Lord Northwick, who was a correct judge of works of art, and had passed much of his early life at Rome and other parts of Italy. Among the many portraits is one of Addison, who was a particular friend of the Rushout family, "and passed much of his leisure at Northwick, whence many papers

¹ Nash's History.

of his incomparable "Spectator" were directed."¹

The Park comprises about 450 acres; and the plantations are of very considerable extent. This hamlet which is the sole property of Lord Northwick includes the farms at Hangman's Hall, Well acres, and Stapenhill.

The Railway Station is also within the hamlet. The whole acreage is about 1029. The gross estimated rental about £1611. Population about 80.

ASTON MAGNA.

This was formerly a hamlet of Blockley, and for rating purposes is still included in the parish; but, with the hamlet of Dorn, it was formed into a separate ecclesiastical district in June 1847. It has been called by the names of Hongundaston, or Hanging Aston, Eston, or East Town. It lies to the E of Blockley, and is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. It is a very ancient place as appears from the following: "In 743 Osred, of the Royal family of the Wiccians, had here 20 cassats of land, in possessionem juris ecclesiastici that he might better attend to the service of the church."

Domesday Book of the Bishoprick says that Jordan Mastune held 3 hides and one yardland in Aston. William Weley owed for lands in Aston, and Henry Chester had 2 hides there. William de Eston held 2 hides. William de Eston held one hide, and a mill of Hugh de Golafre, and Golafre of the Bishop. John, the brother of William held the same afterwards. The mill was at a place called Spina. In the time of Edward I. John de Eston held $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides. In the 20th Edward III. John de Chester, John Watts, and John Bragge held $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides in Aston, which John de Eston formerly held. And in 7th Henry VI. the heirs of John Chester, John Watts and John Bragge held the $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides which the same John Chester, &c., &c. formerly held.²

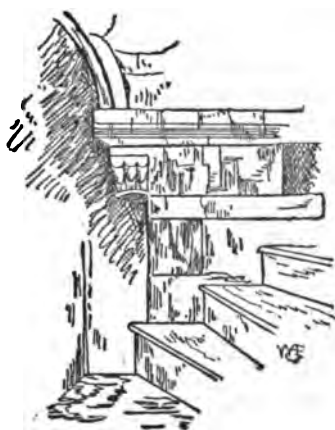
In this hamlet was anciently situated one of the three chapels belonging to Blockley, in addition to the mother Church. Near the south west of the Churchyard, stands all that remains of the ancient Chapel,

¹ Eyre's Blockley Guide.

² Nash's History.

incorporated in the buildings of two cottages, the division wall between these being clearly the line where the Nave and Chancel were separated from each other. The greater portion of this wall remains, is about a yard in thickness, and of the later Norman period. The capital which supported the arch on the south side occupies its original position, together with the shallow string course which continued from it to the south wall; this is perceptible on both faces of the wall.

The shaft is gone, and the Norman arch has been replaced by a pointed arch of later date, having a plain chamfer. The north pier is entirely built in, and hidden by the chimney of the cottage. The Chancel was very small, and in its north wall are traces of a narrow semicircular-headed window, walled up. In the south wall of the nave, and close to the chancel arch is a deeply recessed window, which occupies the place of a pointed doorway which formerly stood here, but was altered about sixty years ago. In the north wall there still remains a plain doorway of early



REMAINS OF CHANCEL ARCH.



NORTH DOOR.

pointed work, having a simple chamfer continued round the opening, without any shaft or capital: this doorway is deeply recessed internally. The west wall of the cottage is comparatively recent, and it is clear that the nave extended farther westwards, and had no aisles. The roof in both cottages bears evidences of its timbers having formed portion of the roof of the chapel in its later condition, some of the beams and braces being richly

moulded. On the south side of the cottages is a tall yew tree of unusual shape, the side branches having been lopped. The tree has run up with a single stem, of considerable thickness, and only branches out at the top.

These cottages are the property of Mr. Thomas Hobbs. The title deeds are in Latin, and the owner is disinclined to allow their being inspected. Near the green, a little west of these cottages stand the remains of an ancient cross, consisting of the basement and a portion of the shaft. The steps are gone, and its present position would seem to infer that this fragment has been removed from its original site, and perhaps owes its preservation to its inapplicability to any ordinary purpose, on account of its bulk and irregular shape. I venture to suggest that it might with propriety be either replaced on a basement of steps in the centre of the green, and its shaft restored; or be removed to the churchyard and thus be preserved from further mutilation. In a field near this spot are to be found traces of a sunk fence which is believed to have enclosed an old Manor House or hall. Burnt stones have been dug up here: and the building may possibly have been associated with the old chapel. There is also a Meadow close by known by the name of "Chapel Withies."



REMAINS OF ANCIENT CROSS.

Through the loss of their ancient Chapel, the inhabitants of Aston, being nearly 3 miles distant from the Mother Church, were practically deprived of the opportunities of public worship. But in the year 1843, by the munificence of the Right Hon. Lord Redesdale, of Batsford Park, the building of an appropriate Gothic Church, was begun and completed in the spring of 1844, "upon a piece of land conveyed by him to Her Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches." There is also a burial ground attached. The Church will accommodate 206 people, the

kneelings being mostly free. The whole cost of the erection, and of the interior fittings, books, communion plate, &c., &c. was borne by Lord Redesdale. On the 3rd Sunday in Lent, 1844, Divine service was for the first time held under the Bishop of Worcester's license, which authorized the administration of the two Sacraments, and the Churching of women. The *registration* of Baptisms continued to be made in the Blockley Church Register until a district was legally assigned to the new Church. This could not be done till a proper endowment had been provided; and that was done by another munificent gift on the part of Lord Redesdale. For the purpose of endowment, his lordship, by deed dated Oct. 13th 1846, "transferred the sum of £3,500, £3 per cent Consolidated Bank Annuities into the names of himself and John Burder, in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England." And under agreement bearing the same date, made between the Bishop, the Rev. Miles Coyle, Vicar of Blockley, and Lord Redesdale, the right of presentation to Aston was vested in Lord Redesdale and his heirs and assigns for ever. The above endowment fund having been provided, the Church was consecrated by the Bishop on the 29th Oct. 1846, and dedicated to "St. John."

By an order in Council dated June 17th 1847, a "particular district" was assigned to the Church; the name of the district being "the Chapelry District of Aston Magna." Its boundaries are thus stated in the Order of Council: "The Chapelry District of Aston Magna, which is to consist of the townships of Aston Magna and Dorn, and which townships form the south easternmost portion of the said parish of Blockley, is bounded on the east by the parish of Lemington, on the south east and the south west by the parish of Batsford, and on the west and north by the hamlets of Draycott and Ditchford in the said parish of Blockley." The Rev. E. F. Chamberlayne, who in 1844 was appointed Curate in charge of Aston by the Rev. Miles Coyle, Vicar of Blockley, was nominated the first incumbent by the patron Lord Redesdale.

In the year 1853 Lord Redesdale added to the living a house and 5 acres of glebe, which the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty met with a benefaction of £200 in aid of the endowment fund, and an additional £200

the following year towards the rebuilding of the house. Thus mainly through the liberality of Lord Redesdale, an appropriate parsonage with outbuildings was completed.

By a deed of annexation dated Jan. 24th, 1857, a portion of the tithe rent charge belonging to the Vicarage of Blockley was annexed to Aston, under the provisions of 1 and 2 Wm. IV. cap. 45. Under this deed, the Rev. H. Bromfield, as Vicar of Blockley, did "annex unto the said Church or Chapel of Aston Magna, all so much and such parts of the rent charges or other payments in lieu or commutation of tithes of and belonging to the said Vicarage of Blockley arising, and that shall from time to time hereafter arise or become due or payable from, out of, or in respect of the several lands and hereditaments situate in the hamlet of Aston Magna, in the parish of Blockley, in the said county of Worcester; such rent charges intended to be hereby annexed being of the commuted value of £95 as appears by the apportionment made on the late commutation of the tithes of the parish of Blockley aforesaid."

At this time also, Lord Redesdale increased his original endowment. The living has become, through the operation of a general Act of Parliament passed in 1868, the *Vicarage* of Aston Magna.

There is a Dame School in the parish, which is supported by Lord Redesdale, who lends the School room, with teacher's cottage and garden adjoining. The average attendance is about 15, and would be larger were it not for the too early age at which children leave school for work in the silk mills at Blockley. There is also a Church Sunday School, with an average attendance of about 30. An Evening School has also been established by the Churchwarden Mr. Richard Purser, who gratuitously provides a cottage for the purposes of the School, which, with the united efforts of himself and other parishioners, has proved greatly beneficial to the village.

There are places in Aston called "Joices Meadow," "Broad Shew," "Old Close," "Half Yard," "Harrods Meadow," &c.

The acreage of Aston is 1112a. 1r. 24p. The gross estimated rental about £2042, The population in 1851 was 269, in 1861, 220, in 1871, 204.

DORN.

Dorn is situated about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles E. by S. of Blockley, and bears numerous indications of having been a Roman Station. In Camden's *Britannia* it is stated that "the tradition of the country says it was once a city; and the many old foundations dug up, with the abundance of British and Roman coins found by the husbandmen, and the lines of the streets still discernible, are evident marks of its antiquity."¹ The Roman Fosseway passes through it, but is now somewhat diverted from its original line. Dorn takes its name from a little stream (which originally ran through it, but now not traceable) called Duran, which in the ancient Celtic signifies *rivulus*, or little stream.² On the farm at Dorn lately in the occupation of Mr. William Phillips, and in other places many antiquities have been at times discovered, such as foundations, wells, coins, (chiefly of the reign of Constantine) pottery, sculpture, &c., &c., and more especially when the line of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, (which runs through Dorn,) was in progress of being formed. In a field east of the Railway and farm house, two fine specimens of sculpture (about 3 feet each in height) were discovered by Mr. Phillips' men while ploughing. An opinion has been expressed that they are, or are portions of, Roman altars, but on examining them I incline to the opinion of one whose antiquarian knowledge is somewhat considerable, that they are more probably memorial stones, representative of two Roman leaders. In a field east of the Railway a considerable quantity of human bones have been discovered. There can be little doubt that these are the remains of the slain in a great battle fought in this neighbourhood in the year 1016. between the forces of the Saxons under Edmund, and the Danes under Canute. The fact that these remains are found close to the surface, with apparently no traces of regular entombment seems to favour this supposition. This great battle took place near the Four Shire Stone, which is only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Dorn. The account of it is thus given in *Stowe's Annales*. "King Edmund determining manfully to give battel unto Canute with a greater hoste than before, met with his

¹ Camden's *Britannia* enlarged by Gough, Vol. II. p. 439.

² Baxter's *Glossarium Antiquit. Brit.* p. 11.

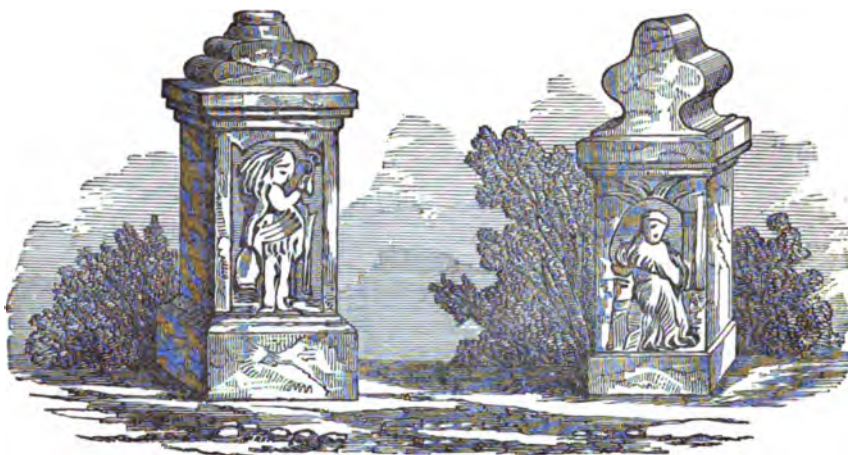


Battle near the
Four Shire
Stone.

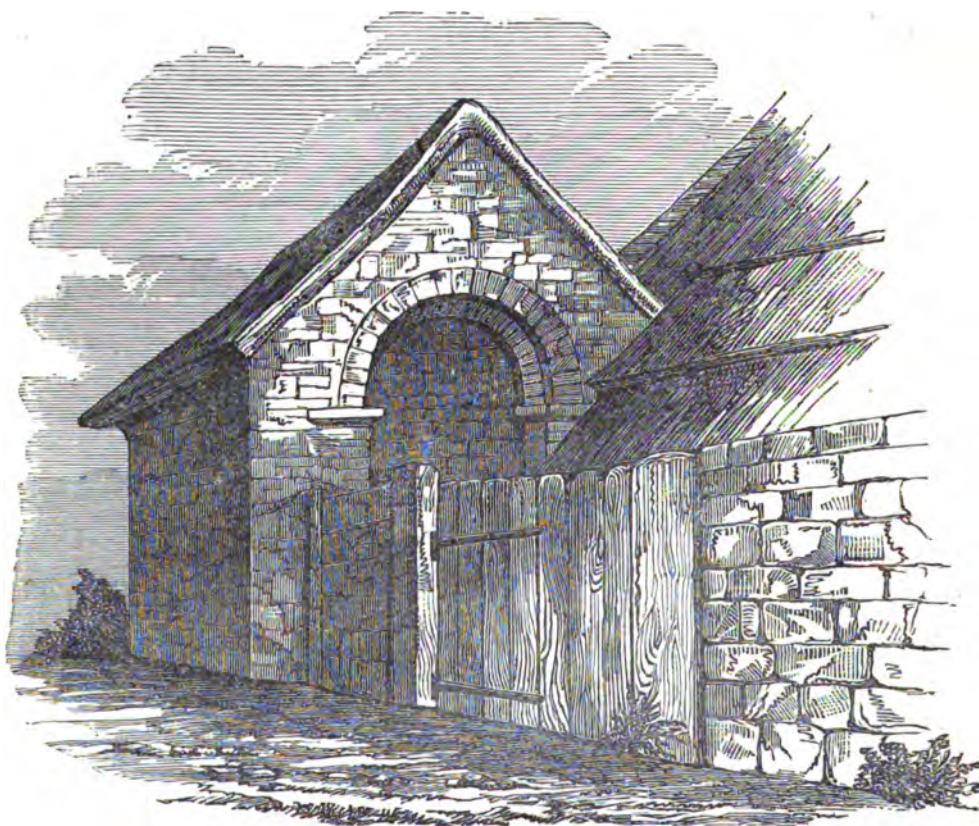
armie at a place called Sherestane,¹ in Worcestershyre, where he in the foreward fiercely fought, executing the office both of a hardy souldiour and valiant captaine. But because Edrike of Straton, the oft named Traytor, and the beloued Almaricus and Algarus the son of Meaninus which ought to have ayded him with the Southamptonshyre men and Wiltshire menne were of the Danes party, hee was sore wearied, but yet the first day of the battell the fight was so extreame and bloudie, that both the armies were so wearied that they were not able longer to fight. The next day the King had overthrowne the Danes, but for Edrike of Straton, who seeing the Englishmen have the better hand, hee cutte off the head of a certaine man, named Osmearus, like to King Edmund in face and hayre, and holding it uppe, cryed out that the Englishmen fought in vaine, and held up the head saying, your maister King Edmund is dead, flie as fast as you can: which the Englishmen had no sooner heard, but they were readie to flie. But shortly after, understanding the King to be alive. they tooke courage againe, and are carried upon the Danes, and beate down a great number of them.

After this about midnight Canute commanded his men to depart with

¹ Called in Camden's *Britannia*, *Seorstan*, or the *Shirestone*.



ROMAN SCULPTURES FOUND AT DORN.



BARN AT DORN SHOWING EARLY ARCHWAY.

silence, and hasting towards London, went to their Ships and shortly after besieged London. Duke Edrike sued for pardon and obtayned it."¹

One of the houses attached to this farm has indications of Norman work in its construction. A tower (formerly adjoining it) with narrow circular-headed windows has been removed during some recent alterations. One of these narrow loop holes has been replaced in the west wall of the house. On the gable is a fragment of window tracery of a later age; and in the adjoining barn, an early archway, apparently of the time of Stephen still remains. It would appear that this formed part of some Chapel or religious house, or possibly a grange connected with some larger monastery. I was also shown by Mr. Phillips a portion of a stone coffin,—that of a child, only the head piece remaining. From all these indications there can be no doubt as to the antiquity of Dorn, and that anciently it was probably a place of somewhat considerable importance.

I extract the following from Nash's History as to tenures by certain persons of land in Dorn: "The Domesday Book of lands belonging to the Bishoprick reports that William de Beauchamp held 5 hides of the Bishop in Dorn, which Robert Weteley held of Beauchamp. Here is either a mistake in the name of Robert Weteley, or else another person Richard de Waleg held these lands of Beauchamp very soon after; for 20 Edward III. John d'Abetot held 5 hides in Dorn, which Richard de Waleg formerly held, and Mr. Abington (Habington?) on the authority of the Book of Tenures says, Waleg held of Beauchamp. This land, 7 Hen. VI. was held by John Blokke.

The Pyes of Faringdon in Berkshire, succeeded to the greatest part of this hamlet, and sold it afterwards to Thomas Edwards Freeman, of Batsford, Esquire, from whom it passed to the Right Hon. John Freeman Mitford, 1st. Lord Redesdale, in which noble family it still remains, as represented by the present Right Hon. John Thomas Freeman Mitford, 2nd. Lord Redesdale.

Dorn, though for rating purposes still included in the parish of

¹ Stowe's *Annales or General Chronicle of England*. Folio (1615) p. 91.

Blockley, forms with Aston Magna a separate ecclesiastical district. (See Aston Magna, page 110.)

The acreage is about 545. The gross estimated rental about £942.

The population in 1861 was 36 ; in 1871, 52.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, AND BURIALS, FROM A.D. 1800.

It must be remembered that up to 1847, the numbers include Aston and Dorn. In that year Aston and Dorn became a separate ecclesiastical district.

In Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1800.	43.	9	26.
1810.	51.	11.	19.
1820.	48.	17.	22.
1830.	65.	11.	42.
1840.	60,	12.	19.
1850.	46.	14.	58.
1860.	55.	13.	42.
1870.	74.	14.	68.
1871.	38.	15.	27.
1872.	94.	12.	32.
1873.	52.	13.	24.

THE PARISH REGISTER.

This commences with the year 1538, and, in the words of Bigland, "has been kept with laudable exactness." It appears to me however that

the book which forms this Register, is made up of a collection of originally separate parchment records containing the entries of Baptisms, &c. *up to a certain time*, copied from "*the old Booke*," and subsequently bound up together for the sake of preservation. If this be so, and I think there can be scarcely any doubt about it, then the old *original* Register, of which I imagine the chief part of the present book is a copy, was not kept with that "laudable exactness" of which Bigland speaks. The opinion that the Register commencing 1538 is not the original Register, but a copy of it *up to a certain time*, is strengthened both by the appearance of the book itself, some of the names and dates at the sides being cut through in the process of binding together; and also from an entry made in the Churchwardens' accounts for the year 1746 as follows:—

"Pd for binding and filling up y^e Register £4 18 0."

Now there is no other book answering to this expensive item, except the one forming the Register commencing 1538. From this I imagine that the entries from the old, and probably worn out book were recopied, and in 1746 bound up together, with a quantity of blank sheets of parchment, and that from that time, this book (containing the re-copied entries) became the parish Register. That there *was* another book seems clear from the following memoranda; one of which refers to "*much having been worn or torne out*." For instance, at the head of the Baptisms for 1542 is this memorandum in old English: "There was no record in the *old Booke* for the next six months; these 12 names following were inserted in y^e former hand A^o Dⁿⁱ 1542." Reference is here evidently made to the next six months following the last entry of 1541, which is in *April*, (the parochial year being reckoned from Easter to Easter.) Then follow the 12 names alluded to, the first date being *November*. The baptisms for 1542 *apparently* therefore commence with *November*, and a cursory glance would lead one to suppose that the record of baptisms for the above six months, (from April to November,) was lost, but on the opposite page is another memorandum in these terms:—"M^d That the record supposed (on the other side) to have been lost was found in a loose paper (of the *old Booke*) misplaced: wherein were these 16 names heare followinge, wh. should have been set before those

12 names on the former record (where you fynd that hand) because that yeare of A^o Dⁿⁱ 1542 ought to have begun with these 16 names." Then follows the record of these 16 names for the missing 6 months from April to November 1542. A *Seventeenth* name is added, which is noted thus:—

" This was found placed amongst y^e marriages."

That there was an *old original book* appears also from this note made at the end of the baptisms for 1543. " Heare it may be playnelie proaved that much hath been worne or torne out, so as we fynd not the record of any more till the first yeare of King Phillip and Queen Marie; and that also greatlie misplaced amongst the burialles." This seems clearly to prove that there was an " old Booke " which had either become " much worne " or had been much " torne," which possibly was the reason of the entries in it being recopied on separate sheets of parchment and bound together in 1746, for which the charge of £4. 18. 0. appears in the Churchwardens' accounts.

The last quoted memorandum assigns as a reason for the absence in the present book of the baptisms from 1544 to and including 1553, viz. that they were either " worne or torne out " from the old book.¹ Then follow entries for 1554 (the first year of Philip and Mary) the entries of this year which were misplaced among the burials being found on the opposite page. Then come 5 entries only for 1555, a note explaining that for the rest of that year and up to 1558 no record was found, except one entry " which in all likelihood seemeth to be in A^o Dⁿⁱ 1557," the name in this entry " beinge the remaynder of much wh. seemeth to have been torne out." It is therefore placed next before 1558. Then follow the years 1558, 1559, and 1560. The years from and including 1561, to and including 1580 are misplaced after the first part of the year 1591, the year 1581 following 1560.

After this the entries appear straight-forward. The first recorded baptism is as follows: " On the 7th day of Januarie (1538) was baptized Anna the daughter of Thomas Paxford." The first recorded marriage is as

¹ There are 3 baptisms entered for December 1544, but they are noted as having been "found amongst the marriages."

follows: "The XIXth day of June (1539) was married John Bennet of Ilmington, and Margaret Dier of Northwick."

The first recorded burial is as follows: "John Witte of Batsford, (in Blockley home) was buried the 6th of Januarie" (1538.)

EXTRACTS FROM BAPTISMS.

A.D. 1723. At the end of the Baptisms for this year is this Latin note: "Hoc anno pratum comune in Ashton septum fuit; vel ut vulgus loquitur, was made several." (TRANSLATED.) In this year a common field in Ashton (Aston) was enclosed, or as the common people say, was made several.

A.D. 1752. From an entry made this year in the handwriting of the Rev. C. J. Selwyn, curate, it appears that the name *Whatcot* is a corruption of *Wheatcroft*. Mr. Selwyn writes with reference to the entry of the baptism of Francis *Whatcot* of Ditchford, "The name *Whatcot* should have been spelt *Wheatcroft*, the original spelling of the name."

A.D. 1758. Baptism of "Elizabeth, wife of John Tull, aged 66, an Anabaptist, and Ann Tull, their daughter, an Anabaptist." [For the benefit of those who may not be conversant with the names of the various religious sects, it may be proper to explain the term Anabaptist. The meaning of the word is, *one who baptizes a second time*. It is derived from two Greek words, which mean to baptize "over again."]

A.D. 1762. Baptism of Richard Fletcher, aged 70, of Paxford, a Presbyterian.

EXTRACTS FROM MARRIAGES.

A.D. 1653. Amongst the marriages of this year is the following certificate pasted in the Register: "I John Keyt, Esq. one of the Justices of the Peace for the county of Worcester, doo hereby signifie, that William Tymmes of Blockley, in the said county of Worcester, is chosen by the inhabitants of Blockley to be the parishe Register, and hath byn by me approved of, and hath taken his oath before me this presente day well and truly to execute his office accordinge unto a late act of Parlyment."

A.D. 1656. Amongst the Banns of marriage published this year is the following: "Publication of an intended marriage betweene Vallentine Hicke of Batsford, in the county of Glour. on the one pte, and Alice Harris of Blockley in the county of Worr. on the other pte. was made in Evesham markett, the 6th, the 17th, and the 20th, of October 1656." In May of the same year (or 1657 according to the parochial year) a publication of Banns was made "in the market of Shipston upon Stower."

EXTRACTS FROM BURIALS.

A.D. 1632. "An old man of Worcester, who died suddainly, was buried 19 Februarii."

A.D. 1646. "Edward Norman a Sumersettsheire man shott at Stowe fight, was burd. 30 Martii."

A.D. 1710. Burial of Anna Dawbins, widow, in the 102nd year of her age.

A.D. 1720. At the end of the burials for this year is this memorandum: "Hoc anno damna maxima in Anglia Patrata per negotium vulgo dictum *South Sea* adeo ut familiæ quam plurimæ paupertati reductæ."

(TRANSLATED.)

In this year serious losses were occasioned in England, by the affair commonly called the South Sea scheme, to such a degree that many families were reduced to poverty.

A.D. 1721. The following memorandum is at the end of the burials for this year: "Hoc anno finitum est votorum omnium suffragiis Parliamentum quod dictum septennale hujusmodi primum in Britannia; et hoc anno merito terrore gravi affecti fuimus lethalissimæ pestis quæ late grassata est in Gallia:" which may be translated thus: In this year came to an end by universal consent the Parliament which was called septennial, the first of this kind in Britain; and in the same year we were with good reason moved with serious anxiety on account of a most deadly plague which extended its ravages far and wide in France.

A.D. 1754. From this year up to 1779 the small pox seems to have appeared frequently in Blockley and the neighbourhood. In this year

there were 2 deaths from it at Paxford. In 1757 there were 2 at Blockley. In 1758 there was another death from it at Blockley, and in the next year one at Aston. In 1760 it caused 3 deaths at Blockley, and 2 at Northwick. In 1762, there were 6 deaths from it again at Blockley, in 1764, 2 deaths, and in 1769, 8 deaths. In 1773, there were 6 deaths from it at Paxford, (3 being buried in one day.) In 1779. there were 5 deaths at Aston. And in 1788 and '89, there were again several deaths at Blockley.

A.D. 1783. The burial of "Thomas Dyde, aged 12, perish'd in the snow."

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

CURIOUS EXTRACTS.

Some of the entries in these accounts are peculiar. A hundred and fifty years ago there appears to have been a crusade carried on against foxes, sparrows and urchins.¹

Some of the accounts almost entirely consist of payments made for the destruction of these. A fox was valued at one shilling, sparrows at two-pence a dozen, and urchins at four-pence each. For instance in 1719 are the following payments :

"Moses Hale, 2 urchins ... 0. 00. 8."

"Ed. Kitching, six doz. sparrowes 0. 01. 0."

The Churchwardens in those days seem to have acted somewhat in the capacity of relieving Officers. At the present time we should consider the assistance given in some of the cases, as trifling and inadequate. Take the year 1719 again, and we find these entries, showing a variety of demands made upon the parish purse :

"Given to Tho. and John Williams having a loss att sea 0. 01. 0.

"Given to poore slaves ... 0. 00. 4.

"Given to men taken by y^e Turks ... 0. 00. 8.

"G. to a poore wid. loss by fire ... 0. 00. 8.

¹ Hedgehogs.

"To a man for loss of cattell ... 0. 00. 6."

Many sums of money appear to have been collected after the reading of Briefs, or applications from other parishes for assistance. I find amongst others the following entries, in the handwriting of Dr. Saunders, Vicar of Blockley, of payments made on account of briefs in the year 1721. It will be noticed that the amounts given were not *extravagantly large*, in comparison with the losses sustained.

"Paris Street in Exeter, loss by fire ... £1067 given 00. 02. 00."

"Shrawardine Ch. Com. Salop. ... 1609 given 00. 02. 00."

"St. Olave's Ch. near York ... 1089 given 00. 01. 06."

"Swavesey, Com. Cambridge, loss by fire 1755 given 00. 02. 00."

A.D. 1724. Copy of an account as it stands in the Parish book.

"Hen. Yoxon's	}	Sexton	}
Bill.		and Clark.	

"Imprs. for waiting on y ^e clock and ringing	}	1. 10. 0.
y ^e 4 and 8 of clock bells ...		

"For washing y ^e Church Linnen	...	0. 6. 8.
---	-----	----------

"For six days work	...	0. 4. 0.
--------------------	-----	----------

"For mending y ^e Church Linnen	...	0. 2. 0.
---	-----	----------

"For Oyl for y ^e Clock and Bells	...	0. 2. 8.
---	-----	----------

"For Beeshomes for y ^e use of y ^e Ch.	...	0. 0. 10.
---	-----	-----------

"For leathering of 4 bells	...	0. 2. 8.
----------------------------	-----	----------

Tot. 2. 08. 10."

A.D. 1733. Among what are called the "*Disburstments*" are these items:

"Gave to a man as could not speake	...	0. 1. 6.
------------------------------------	-----	----------

"Gave to a Seaman	...	0. 0. 6.
-------------------	-----	----------

" John Warner for 2 years at y ^e clock ...	0. 5. 0."
Visitation expenses:	
" For 2 mens dinners	0. 2. 0.
" For extordinarys for 2 men and 1 horse ...	0. 2. 10½.
A.D. 1734. " George Lovsey for 7 foxes ...	0. 7. 0.
" Spent at making up the accounts ...	. 0. 0.
A.D. 1735. " Spent at the time as the Ves- try was held on Fryday in the Easter week	} 1. 0. 6.
" Paid for a Book for the Prayers of the Church for the Princes (Princess ?) of Wales	} 0. 5. 0.
A.D. 1736. " Spent making up the ac- counts for meat and drink	} 1. 3. 6.
A.D. 1737. " Setting y ^e pinnacles and oyling y ^e vanes two times	} 0. 6. 0.
A.D. 1738. " For 2 nails of Hollan to mend the sirplis	} 0. 01. 3.
" Paid for 1 hundred of coles ...	0. 01. 3.
" John Warner, sollery for his looking after y ^e clock, 1 year	} 0. 02. 6.
A.D. 1739. " Paid the Aparite for bring- ing the prayers for the fast	} 0. 3. 0.
" Gave traveling people	0. 3. 9.
A.D. 1740. " Paid for the table for the Countess Charity	} 3. 0. 0.
A.D. 1742. " Paid for a book read in the Church, for propagating the Gospell in fforeign parts	} 0. 6. 4.

" Paid Thomas Wells of Draycott, for 6 young urchins, and 4 old ones	}	0.	1.	4.
--	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

A.D. 1745. " The Paritor's feese and a book for y ^e fast	}	0.	5.	6.
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

A.D. 1746. " Paid the turnpick four horses						0.	0.	4.
--	--	--	--	--	--	----	----	----

" October y ^e 15. Pd. for an act of Parliment against swaring	}	0.	0.	8.
--	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

A.D. 1749. " Pd for stuffing y ^e pilpit cushin						0.	1.	6.
---	--	--	--	--	--	----	----	----

¹ A.D. 1753. " May 1. Spent at Percessioning at Wm. Joans	}	0.	3.	0.
--	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

" At Ditchford Mill			0.	3.	0.
---------------------	-----	-----	--	--	----	----	----

" At Robert Warner's			0.	8.	0.
----------------------	-----	-----	--	--	----	----	----

" Pd for horse hire for y ^e clark at Percessioning					0.	1.	0.
---	--	--	--	--	----	----	----

A.D. 1761. "Memorandum: That a fee of Six shillings and eight pence is due to the parish, for the liberty of breaking ground in order to the burial of any person in the Church.

" A.D. 1764. A thanksgiving for y ^e birth of the Prince	}	0.	3.	6.
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

" Paid for a new surpless at Oxford	...					3.	0.	6.
-------------------------------------	-----	--	--	--	--	----	----	----

" Paid for strings for y ^e bass vial	...					0.	7.	6.
---	-----	--	--	--	--	----	----	----

A.D. 1773. " For a yard of cloth to wipe y ^e plate	}	0.	1.	2.
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----	----

A.D. 1783. " Wm. Long for making a house for the engin to stand in			}	1.	4.	7."
--	-----	-----	--	--	---	----	----	-----

¹ These items refer no doubt to the old custom of beating the bounds.

A.D. 1786. Among the entries this year is an account of receipts by "Wm. Long of several Genteelmen for new making their own pews." From this it appears that there was a pew "belonging to the Farm house at the *Cherry Orchard* in Blockley."¹ Also one belonging to Mr. Whatcott's farm, "called Dees Farm in Blockley."

A.D. 1787. Mr. Warner for mending the	
great bell 	4. 0. 0.

A.D. 1797. Paid Rt. Rouse for keeping the	
dogs out of Church for 27 weeks to Michaelmas 1797	0. 13. 6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OLD TITHE BOOKS OF THE VICARAGE OF BLOCKLEY.

The earliest of these books commences with the year 1701. They appear to contain accounts of the various tithes then annexed to the vicarage, and received by the Vicar from time to time. In the book commencing 1701, there is the following memorandum within the cover, dated 1723- "Mem. Mr. Adams acqted (acquainted) me yt. at digging to make a vault by Sir J. Rushout, two thousd. skulls were found in y^t p^t of y^e ch. wch. no body living remembers to be laid there,"

This entry appears in the handwriting of the Rev. Dr. Saunders Vicar: "4 May, 1718. Being Sunday I began to visit y^e parishioners *at home*² from house to house to exhort and admonish ym & particularly to put ym in mind of their duty to freqt. y^e ch & receive y^e Sacramt." Then follow the names of 7 families visited that day.

In this same tithe account book there is an entry bearing date April 21st 1709, "of y^e distribution of my Ld. Conwey's Charity to y^e poor in Blockley." The sum distributed was £7. 4. 0. amongst 13 people. This is the only place in which I find any mention made of this charity.

Amongst the payments made out of the alms money "collected at a

1 This probably was the "Cherry Orchard," near the back of Northwick Terrace.

2 These two words are written in Greek.

Sacrament " are these:—

"1719 Jan. 24. To Richd. Bp. (Bishop) a	}	00. 02. 6."
poor convert from Popery		
"Mar. 15. To Goody Edwards of Dracot	}	00. 01. 0."
being weak & very old		

APPENDIX.

Beating the
Bounds.

Page 1. I have mentioned that the last recorded occasion of this custom being kept up was in the year 1720. I have since found an entry in one of the Tithe Books of the Parish dated 1753. It is as follows: "On Ascension Day 1753 Charles Jasper Selwyn, Curate, Richard Wilkes and Francis Wheatcroft, Churchwardens, with others of the parishioners, went a procession round the boundaries of the Parish of Blockley, and particularly noted that part of the Parish, which is taken into the Park of Thos. Edwards Freeman, Esq. of Battersford.

There had been no procession since May 26, 1720, in Dr. Saunders' time."

"N.B. That the road next to Mr. Freeman's Park, before part of Blockley Parish was taken into the Park, was in the Parish of Batsford."

Page 3. In one of the tithe books (dated 1728) the following names of places are mentioned, and may be added to those I have already specified: "Merial's Meadow, Collier's Close, Barton Hill Close, Honyx, Mogmore, Hammond's Meadow, Beggar's Bush Close, Lane's Close, White-way, Middenhill Ley," &c.

Provident
Medical
Institution.

Page 12. The late frequent changes in the resident Medical officers has caused this Institution to be given up for the present.

Population.

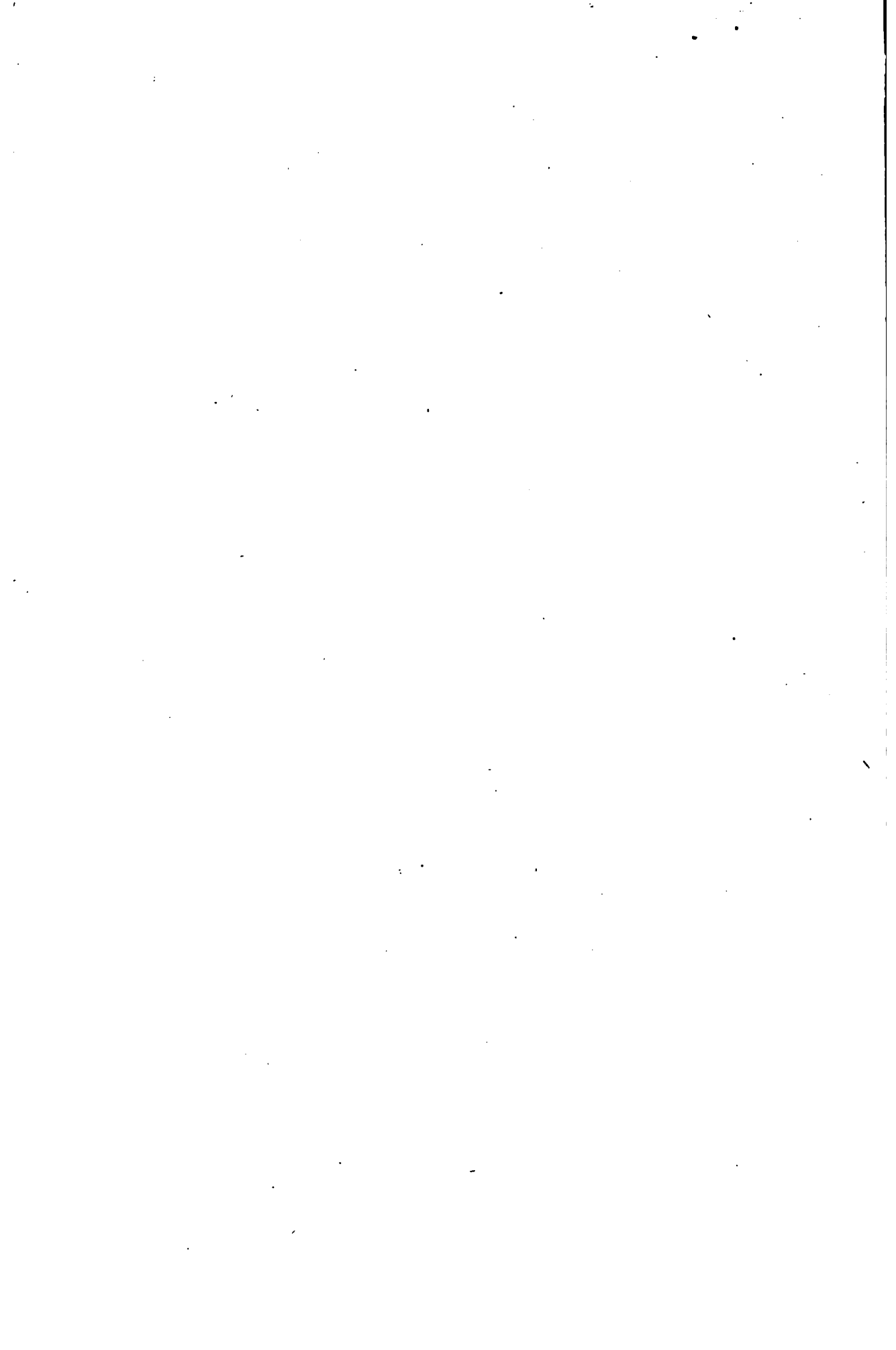
Page 17. In one of the tithe Books, is "a list of y^e inhabitants of Blockley Parish taken A.D. 1719." It is in the Rev. Dr. Saunder's handwriting, and appears to include Blockley and Upton Wold. According to

this list the population was about 350. There are also lists added of Paxford, Northwick, Ditchford and Draycott, but I am not clear whether they are meant to contain the names of the whole population or only those of the "*housekeepers*."

Page 77. This School has since been placed under Government Inspection with the consent of Lord Northwick. Boys' National
School.

The oldest Nonconformist place of Worship in Blockley is that now used by the Primitive Methodists. This building was erected in 1792, as a Baptist Chapel, and continued to be so used till 1835, when the present one near the Post Office was built at a cost of £1000 and upwards. The present minister is the Rev. Samuel Mann, whose predecessor, the Rev. C. J. Middleton, (who died at Blockley,) was highly esteemed by the inhabitants generally. There is morning and evening service at this Chapel on Sundays at 10-30, a.m. and 6 p.m.

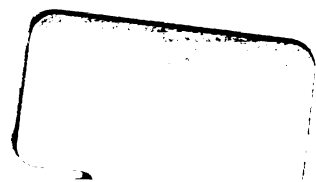




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